

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

January 15, 1997

Capitol fall down! This beautiful building is a symbol of all that is good in Nebraska - our appreciation of history and nature, our common vision, and our common sense, especially our good financial sense. It took ten years to build. But when it was dedicated, this Capitol was paid for. It's been an important year for our Capitol. With last November's dedication of the eight murals in the Memorial Chamber, this building, as originally designed, was finally completed. This year, we also found out that it will cost twice as much to repair the Capitol as it originally cost to build. Of course, we all care about our Capitol. But our school children have a special attachment to this grand building that they call their own. Thousands of young Nebraskans tour this building every year. And students across the state have already started projects to raise money for the Capitol to help the Legislature and to help us with our budget. I want to thank them for those efforts, and I want them to help out, by including in our budget...want us to help them out by including in our budget funding to begin the restoration of our Capitol this year. I hope that restoration of the Capitol will come to symbolize a restoration of Nebraska. I came across a new term for our times from the editor of an international techno-culture magazine. He refers to outbreaks of "pro-noia" - the sneaking feeling that somebody is conspiring behind our backs to help us. I hope we will see outbreaks of pro-noia all across Nebraska - that people will see that their leaders are working on their behalf to help them improve their lives and to prepare this state for the future. Together, we can do it. To our senators, I'd like to offer these words of advice on the hundreds of bills that you'll be facing this session: Some legislation is needed at each session of the Legislature. Much legislation is seldom needed. Let us remember that a successful session can be based on what is not done as well as by what is done. Now those aren't my words. They are the comments of Governor Robert Leroy Cochran to the first Unicameral shortly after Norris's historic address 60 years ago. Your job, obviously, is to decide what we don't need as well as what we do. Those are very difficult decisions, and I call on you to muster the honesty, courage, and wisdom of Senator Norris to make the best decisions possible. One of the lawmakers who was in that very first Unicameral in 1937 was Senator Charles J. Warner, who later became Lieutenant Governor. His son, Jerome Warner, has served in the Unicameral longer than