

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
January 05, 2011

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the first day of the One Hundred Second Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Harms. Would you all please rise.

SENATOR HARMS: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Harms. If you would all continue standing, we will now have the Presentation of Colors from the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you to the members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard. You may be seated. Pursuant to the provisions of Article III, Section 10 of the Constitution of Nebraska, the One Hundred Second Legislature, First Session of the Legislature of Nebraska, assembled in the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber of the State Capitol, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2011, is now called to order. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the roll for purposes of establishing a quorum.

CLERK: (Roll read, Legislative Journal page 1.) Mr. President, I do have a quorum present.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now proceed to the appointment of temporary officers. Senator Wightman, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to appoint Mr. Patrick J. O'Donnell as temporary Clerk of the Legislature, and Mr. Ron Witkowski as temporary Sergeant at Arms. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the appointment of temporary officers. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, resignation and appointment letters.

CLERK: Mr. President, I received a letter from Senator Robert Giese, District 17, announcing his resignation; subsequent to that communication, a communication from the Governor to the members indicating the appointment of David Bloomfield to fill the vacancy in the 17th Legislative District. Accompanying the appointment letter are the appropriated documentation, including oath of office. That's all that I have, Mr.

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President. (Legislative Journal pages 2-4.)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Chair now declares the Legislature temporarily organized. The Chair recognizes Senator Cornett.

SENATOR CORNETT: I move we proceed to the election of five persons to serve as the Committee on Credentials, who will forthwith report to the Legislature on the credentials of those claiming to be elected to the Legislature in the general election in November 2010.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cornett. The question is on the adoption of the motion to elect the Committee on Credentials. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The five senior members for the Committee on Credentials...the question is the adoption of the motion to elect the Committee on Credentials. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Wallman.

SENATOR WALLMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to elect the following five members of the Legislature to serve on the Committee on Credentials: Senator Langemeier, Senator Louden, Senator Pahls, Senator Fischer, Senator Flood.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Wallman. The five senior members are Senator Langemeier, Senator Louden, Senator Pahls, Senator Fischer, and Senator Flood. The motion before you is to elect the five senior members. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, all those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The five members should retire to the rear of the Chamber to join with the Clerk and Secretary of State. Mr. Clerk, you are acknowledged for the report.

CLERK: I do have a report in front of me, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 5-6.)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The Chair recognizes Senator Langemeier.

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Mr. President, I move to approve the Committee on Credentials' report, as accredited and presented by the Secretary of State.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Langemeier. The motion before you is to approve the report of the Committee on Credentials. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The report is adopted. Senator Schilz, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR SCHILZ: Mr. President, I move that a committee of five be appointed to escort the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to the Legislative Chamber for the purpose of administering the oath of office to the members of the Legislature.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Schilz. The motion before you is to select a committee of five to escort the Chief Justice. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The Chair appoints the following committee of five senators: Senator Wightman, Senator Ashford, Senator Nelson, Senator Lathrop, and Senator Conrad. Will you retire to the Clerk of the Supreme Court's Office. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Mike Heavican.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: (Gavel) The Chair recognizes the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, Chief Justice Mike Heavican.

CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Would the following senators-elect come forward, please, to take their oaths: Senator Dave Pankonin, Pete Pirsch, John Nelson, Burke Harr, Bob Krist, Steve Lathrop, Jim Smith, Lydia Brasch, Scott Lautenbaugh, Brad Ashford, Paul Schumacher, Greg Adams, Amanda McGill, Bill Avery, Norman Wallman, Russ Karpisek, Annette Dubas, John Wightman, Tom Carlson, Tyson Larson, Thomas Hansen, Mark Christensen, Danielle Conrad, and John Harms. (Oath of office administered, Legislative Journal page 7.) Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Chief Justice Heavican. Will the committee now escort the Chief Justice from the Chamber. The Chair recognizes Senator Haar.

SENATOR HAAR: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the rules, as now in our possession, be adopted for today only, Wednesday, January 5, 2011.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Haar. The motion before you is adoption of temporary rules. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. We will now move to the election of permanent officers. We will now move to the election of permanent officers. The Chair recognizes Senator Wightman.

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the following officers recommended by the Executive Board be elected to serve for the One Hundred Second Legislature: Clerk of the Legislature Patrick J. O'Donnell, Assistant Clerk of the Legislature Richard K. Brown, and Sergeant at Arms Ron Witkowski.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Wightman. The motion before you is the election of permanent officers. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. At this time, we have enjoyed having family members on the floor with us here today, but at this time we will move to the election of the Speaker of the Legislature. So I would ask family members to please step from the floor and move under the balconies. The Chair recognizes Senator Mello for a motion.

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SENATOR MELLO: Mr. President, I move to proceed to the election of the Speaker of the Legislature.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to proceed with the election of the Speaker. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The floor is now open for nominations of Speaker. Senator Flood, you're recognized.

SENATOR FLOOD: Good morning, Mr. President. Good morning, members. I respectfully nominate myself for a third term as your Speaker. As I promised in 2007, 2009, and I'm again promising today, there are three covenants I, again, commit myself to as your Speaker. The first is fairness. It is important that senators conduct business in an open and fair environment. As Speaker, I will do my part to ensure each of you are given an opportunity to pursue your own agenda, whatever that may be. Second, I believe the Speaker should have respect for the institution. In this capacity, and all of us as senators, we have a duty to protect and defend the integrity of the nation's only Unicameral Legislature. The Speaker, in his or her role, must ensure that the policymaking branch of state government remains strong and true to our mission as a separate but coequal branch of state government. And, finally, the Speaker, as we all do, has the duty to help move this state forward. While other states in our nation have delayed tough decisions and failed to exercise fiscal restraint, Nebraska, and specifically this Legislature, has acted responsibly. Today we find ourselves in front of another tough session, but I have confidence that by listening to each other's ideas in this unique marketplace of ideas, we will find the right solutions and continue to move this state forward. With that, I respectfully request your consideration and your support to continue in my role as your Speaker. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Flood. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations closed. Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Flood.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is a motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Flood Speaker by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Senator Flood is declared the winner. Congratulations. Senator Conrad, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR CONRAD: Mr. President, I move that a committee of five be appointed to escort the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to the Legislative Chamber for the purpose of administering the oath of office to the officers of the Legislature.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Conrad. The motion before you is to select a committee of five to escort the Chief Justice for the administering of the oath of office. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The Chair appoints the following committee: Senator Harms, Senator Karpisek, Senator Lautenbaugh, Senator Howard, and Senator Janssen. Would you please retire to the back of the Legislature to escort the Chief Justice. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, Mike Heavican.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: (Gavel) The Chair recognizes the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, Chief Justice Mike Heavican.

CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN: Thank you, Mr. President. It's now my honor and duty to swear in the Speaker of the Legislature. Mike Flood, would you come forward, please, sir? (Oath of office administered to Speaker Flood.) Thank you very much and congratulations. And now it is my duty and pleasure to swear in the Clerk of the Legislature, Patrick J. O'Donnell. (Oath of office administered to Clerk O'Donnell.) Thank you very much. Congratulations. And now we will have the oath of office for the Assistant Clerk of the Legislature, Richard K. Brown. (Oath of office administered to Assistant Clerk Brown.) Thank you very much and congratulations. And now it is my honor to give the oath of office to the Sergeant at Arms, Ron Witkowski. (Oath of office administered to Sergeant at Arms Witkowski.) Thank you very much and congratulations. (Legislative Journal pages 8-9.) That concludes the oaths for this morning.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Chief Justice Heavican. Will the committee please escort the Chief Justice from the Chamber. The Chair recognizes Senator Heidemann.

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Mr. President, I move to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Committee on Committees. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Hansen, you're recognized.

SENATOR HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'd like to nominate myself for Chairmanship of the Committee on Committees. This is the largest committee of the Legislature--it has 13 members--and it's also the shortest. We will fulfill our duties by tomorrow. So this is an important committee. It represents all 49 members of the body, getting them on the committees that their caucus says that they should serve on and that they desire to serve on, and to do the work of the people of the

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Legislature and the people of the state of Nebraska. I do this with fairness and brevity, and if we can, report back tomorrow and let all new senators, especially, know which committees they will be assigned to for the next two years. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Are there any further nominations? Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Hansen.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Hansen Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Hansen. Senator Fischer, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the remaining 12 members of the Committee on Committees and that we authorize the members residing within each of the three districts, as enumerated in Rule 3, Section 2, to nominate 4 members to be elected by the legislative body to serve on the Committee on Committees. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Fischer. The question is the motion to elect the remaining members of the Committee on Committees. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, will you read the report?

CLERK: Mr. President, pursuant to that action, the following caucuses have reported the results from their various caucus meetings with respect to the Committee on Committees. District 1 has selected: Senators Adams, Conrad, Langemeier, and Pankonin. District 2: Senators Ashford, Cornett, Howard, and Lathrop. District 3: Senators Carlson, Fischer, Flood, and Loudon.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Harms, you're recognized for a motion to approve the nominees.

SENATOR HARMS: Mr. President, I move the approval of the nominees to the Committee on Committees.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The question is the motion to approve the nominees. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. We will now proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board. Senator Pirsch, you're recognized.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. Thank you.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. The question is a motion to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The floor is open for nominations. Senator Wightman, you're recognized.

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to nominate myself as the Chair of the Executive Board. I have served during the last two years. My colleagues saw fit to elect me at that time in spite of my youth, (laughter) and so I have an interest in serving again. I think we've been open and fair during my past two years, and would intend to follow that procedure again for the ensuing two years. I would ask for your vote as Chair of the Executive Board for the forthcoming two years. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Wightman. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Wightman.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Wightman Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Wightman. Senator Price, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Price. You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Nelson, you're recognized.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President, I rise to place my name in nomination for Vice Chairman of the Executive Board. It's been an honor to serve as Vice Chairman for the last two years. During my tenure as Vice Chairman, I have strived to maintain open and honest relationships with the entire Legislature. I believe that this Legislature functions best when we work together in a spirit of cooperation, and I will maintain my open-door policy so that any member of this body can voice their opinion to me on matters before the Executive Board. For new members of the body, I was first elected to the Legislature in 2006. I have served on the Appropriations Committee since entering the Legislature and take the responsibility of balancing the budget very seriously. I'm a graduate of the University of Nebraska and Creighton University Law School. I served as a naval destroyer officer and completed...I retired as a commander of the naval

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reserve. I've been married to my wonderful wife, Judy, for 35 years, and we have three adult children. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Vice Chairman of the Executive Board. I ask for your vote. And thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Nelson.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is a motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Nelson Vice Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Nelson. Senator Pankonin, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR PANKONIN: Mr. President, I move to proceed to the election of the other six members of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, as outlined in 50-401.01.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Pankonin. The question is the adoption of the motion to proceed to the election of the members of the Executive Board. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, you're recognized for a report.

CLERK: Mr. President, the results from the various caucuses are as follows: District 1 has selected Senators Karpisek and Langemeier to serve on the Executive Board; District 2, Senators Lathrop and Pahls; District 3, Senators Christensen and Fischer.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Hansen, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the approval of the nominees to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. The question before the body is on the adoption of the caucus reports. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The reports are adopted. We will now move to the elections of the standing committee Chairpersons. The Chair recognizes Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the standing committee Chairpersons by secret ballot, in accordance with Rule 3, Section 8(a).

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Sullivan. The question is the adoption of the motion to proceed to the election of the standing committee Chairpersons. All those

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in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. We will start with the Chair of the Agriculture Committee. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Carlson, you're recognized.

SENATOR CARLSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I respectfully place myself as a candidate for the Chair of the Ag Committee of the Legislature. Serving in the Unicameral the past four years has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I've served as Chair of the Ag Committee the past two years. It is essential that the Legislature promotes and encourages legislation and programs that enhance the climate for successful farming and livestock production in our state. I appreciate the dedication of the Ag Committee the past two sessions. A sample of significant legislation advanced by the committee includes: LB98 which extends the work of the vegetation task force for four years; LB224 which completed the successful move of the State Fair to Grand Island; LB986 allows federal food and nutrition benefits for farmers' markets; LB910 requires a dollar fee to be assessed each time a dog or cat is licensed in the state of Nebraska to help fund our inspection program; LB865 addressed animal welfare. There are other important bills and I thank those who sponsored each one. Agriculture is the number one industry in Nebraska and I believe it's the most important industry in our state. The Ag Committee should be the lead group in doing everything possible to provide a positive climate for grain and livestock producers and related agricultural services to be consistently profitable on a year-by-year basis. There are outside groups that want to change our agricultural way of life. We must be alert to their motives and stop them from any progress in Nebraska. We are competent to handle our challenges and to make decisions that best serve all citizens of Nebraska. It's a high calling to feed the world. I'm confident our agricultural producers are up to the challenge. In conclusion, when grain and livestock producers make money, everybody in Nebraska benefits. When grain and livestock producers are hurting, everyone in Nebraska hurts. Thank you for your support. I ask for your vote as Chair of the Ag Committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Carlson. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Carlson.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Carlson Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Carlson. Senator Heidemann, you're recognized for a motion. Senator Heidemann, you're recognized.

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Mr. President and fellow members of the Legislature. I would like to nominate myself for Chairman of Appropriations. I've been on

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Appropriations all six years of my term up here. The last four years I have been Chair of that committee. We do have some challenging times before us and hopefully, with good leadership, we'll be able to see that through. I have a great working relationship that I have gained over the last six years with the Fiscal Office; they have a lot of institutional knowledge that we have lost in the Legislature because of term limits, and I think that serves me well. And there's a lot of knowledge down there that not only I can gain but the whole body can gain, so I think that's a positive. We do have some challenging times before us. Hopefully, with some good leadership, we'll be able to work out those challenges in the committee. I think over the last four years that has been proven through the regular sessions and one special session that we were able to bring a good balanced budget, responsible budget and look for priorities in the committee, and hopefully we will be able to do that again and have a good vision for what we need to do to move this state forward. So with that, I would appreciate your vote.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Heidemann. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Heidemann.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Heidemann Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Heidemann. Senator Pahls, you're recognized.

SENATOR PAHLS: Good morning, Mr. President and members of the body. Good morning, Nebraska, I should say also. I rise to place my name in nomination for the Chair of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. If so elected, this would be my third term. And I have found out in the past...before I became a member of this body, I had a number of leadership roles and the one thing that I found out, that I, as an individual, was successful if I were surrounded by many good people. And this I'm going to tell you what's made, I think, my past success in this position possible. Number one, I have a staff that if you have a question on banking and insurance, if they don't know it, they know where to go. And many of you have worked with my staff, you know that, you get it. I've had the opportunity to work with the Department of Insurance. I will miss Ann Frohman because she has retired and gone into the private world. But Bruce Ramge has been with that department over 26 years, so he's going to bring a wealth of knowledge, and I have had some dealings with him. And in the future, you know, insurance is going to be a big deal, perhaps not this year but next year. So I feel very successful...have had much success with the Department of Insurance. And the Department of Banking, under John Munn's leadership, has also provided me...if I have a question they don't stonewall me. They tell me, hey, this is the way it is, and I feel very comfortable working with those individuals. That is why the state of Nebraska is known

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as a state for insurance. If you look at our history, when you think of insurance, you think of the state of Nebraska. We're one of the leading states in that, also in our bankers. Our community bankers are unbelievable. You know, some people will talk about how the banking industry has gotten us into problems. That's at the federal level. At the state level we've been doing it. So you can see working with those groups...and the nice thing about it, they are cash-funded agencies, so they do give us money so we can utilize in our General Fund. So that's good. Also, I have been lucky in the past of having to work with a committee that have been very supportive and they're what I say the old good Nebraskan's philosophy, get her done. Well, they do get her done. And I hope that that same committee sticks with me this year. I think they will. But also beyond that I'm just going to mention a few senators' names. Senator Carlson...and not all these members serve on the committee, but Senator Carlson a couple of years ago when I was running against the wall on viatical insurance, he was there helping me out. He's not on the committee, but he has that background. I also see Senator Utter, Senator Pankonin. These individuals are in the banking field and they get it. And also we have another banker in our audience, Senator Sullivan, and I know that I can depend on her. And beyond that, we have Senator Langemeier, Senator Christensen who can help because of their knowledge on real estate because that's part of our committee's work. So you can see I've surrounded myself hopefully with many good people and I plan to continue to...God willing and the creek don't rise, I plan to be here the total session. (Laughter) Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Pahls. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Pahls.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Pahls Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Pahls. We will now proceed to Business and Labor. Senator Lathrop, you're recognized.

SENATOR LATHROP: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I rise to place my name into nomination for Chair of Business and Labor Committee. I was elected four years ago, just reelected now for my second term. I spent my first four years on the Business and Labor Committee and the last two as the Chair. That committee, as you know, faces significant issues in the upcoming session with the Commission on Industrial Relations. That's a subject matter that I've been working on diligently with Senator Ashford and others during the interim to try to develop solutions to that very difficult issue and a very difficult problem. I think we're getting somewhere with our efforts. I look forward to chairing the committee and I'd appreciate your support. Thank you.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Lathrop.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Lathrop Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Lathrop. We will now continue to Chair of Education Committee. Senator Adams, you're recognized.

SENATOR ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'd like to place my name into nomination for Chair of the Education Committee. As you can sense by my voice, I'll keep this short. Two years ago I asked you to allow me to lead this committee and you consented. Today I ask you again. And I hope very simply that you will ask yourself, have I demonstrated the leadership qualities that you've looked for in this committee, and finally and maybe most of all have I retained your trust to serve again for another two years. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Adams. Are there other nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Adams.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Adams Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Adams. We will now move for Chair of General Affairs. Senator Karpisek, you're recognized.

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise today to nominate myself as Chair of General Affairs Committee. I've been Vice President for two years...Vice President, (laugh) sorry, Vice Chair for two years and Chair for two years. Although some of the issues that come before us in General Affairs are not the most glamorous, they're often some of the most controversial. And I think in these times that we're facing now is when some of these situations are going to have to have a good, long, hard look at them. Our committee will look much different with at least two members gone, and I'm looking forward to working with the members that are new and ones that we've had on for at least a couple of years. I appreciate being the Chair of General Affairs Committee. We do have to take many different looks at things because, again, they can be controversial. I know all different committees can be, but it seems that we get our fair share. I would appreciate two more years of being Chair of General

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Affairs Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Karpisek. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Karpisek.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Karpisek Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Karpisek. We will now proceed to Chair of Government, Military and Veterans Affairs. Senator Avery, you're recognized.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. President and distinguished colleagues. It is my privilege to stand for reelection as Chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. I have served on this committee the entire four years of my tenure in this body. It has been a richly rewarding experience and an enjoyable one. As you know, the committee deals with two broad sets of issues: Those relating to governmental processes and matters involving the military and veterans' affairs. The vast majority of the committee's responsibilities reside in the realm of governmental process. We deal with governmental subdivisions at all levels, cities, counties, townships. We write election laws, campaign laws, laws regulating lobbying activity, public records and open meetings, laws governing boards and commissions, state departments and agencies, and a host of other issues. We also have subject matter jurisdiction over the National Guard, Veterans' Aid Fund, veterans' homes, and county veterans service officers. During the One Hundred First Legislature, the committee took up 111 bills, 48 of which were passed into law. Of the 111 bills that were heard, 104 dealt with the governmental side of the committee's responsibilities. During my two years as Chair, the committee accomplished a significant amount of important work. We ended the practice of secret settlements in government agencies. We clarified the legal use of public resources by public officials and employees. We protected military installations from encroachment by city and county property development. We defined shooting range and firearm performance standards. And we provided better access to ballots for military and overseas voters, among other things that we accomplished. The work of this committee is where my interests lie and also where I had the most experience. I have spent most of my adult life at UNL teaching government, and I served four years in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam era. I used the GI Bill to help me through college, a life-changing experience that I could not otherwise afford. These experiences have shaped me and prepared me to lead this committee again. Over the past four years, I have been privileged to represent this body and the committee at numerous National Guard deployment ceremonies and National Guard welcome home events. I have been happy to do this and proud to represent this institution. Two nights

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ago, I was in Omaha to send the 195th forward support group for another year of tour...another tour of duty in Afghanistan. I've traveled as far as McCook to break ground for a new Guard facility, and I have traveled to many other parts of the state in support of our troops. Two summers ago, I chaired an interim committee that studied ways to protect Nebraska's military assets from closure and realignment. We protected a nearly \$3 billion industry in our state. Most of you know me. You know that I am fair-minded, hardworking, and pragmatic. You know that I approach issues in a thoughtful and deliberative manner. You know that I am someone who listens and someone who can work with you on virtually any issue. Above all, I try to be fair, open, and accessible. I have made many lasting friendships in this place over the past four years, and that is what I cherish the most. I care deeply about this institution and the people who serve here, and I will do everything within my power to protect and strengthen this institution and support those who are part of it. I hope that you will consider these attributes sufficient and worthy of another term as Chair of this committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Avery. Are there additional nominations? Senator Krist, you're recognized.

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I respectfully nominate myself as the Chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. I sincerely want to thank my colleagues and friends who have counselled me during this decision process. I appreciate that greatly. Today in this Chamber, there are 49 senators, leaders all, leaders who have been trusted and empowered by the citizens of the great state of Nebraska during this, the One Hundred Second Legislature. It's going to be tough one. Former prime minister of the United Kingdom, Margaret Thatcher, has one of my greatest, best quotes, favorite quotes about leadership. She said: Being a leader is like being a lady. If you have to tell someone you are one, you're not. Baroness Thatcher believes in leadership by example, and that's why I'm standing here before you today. I feel the same way. My decision to run was made because I believe a change in leadership in the committee is needed. We need more efficient government. It's time for this committee to look at things differently with a new perspective and a willingness and a determination to consolidate and restructure government. As the committee name implies, its jurisdictions encompass three unique areas: government affairs, military affairs, and veterans' affairs. All three of these components, or this triad, deserve this body's proportional attention. The functions and structure of our state government must constantly be monitored, streamlined, just like our civilian counterparts do, and reorganized for better efficiencies. Today we are facing challenges in tough economic times. I see these times as inspirational, frankly, the opportunity to restructure antiquated systems creating efficiency and smaller government where we can. As a member of the Nebraska Military Coalition, I understand the critical importance of securing existing operations within the state and identifying new missions to bed down here in Nebraska, new good-paying jobs. Just for

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a perspective, the current value of military missions in this state, throughout the state, is just shy of \$5 billion. We cannot afford to lose one of those missions, not in this economic time. This will require a proactive effort, a thoughtful coordination with our own Military Department, our Congressional delegation, and, most importantly, injecting Nebraska's relevancy into the Department of Defense strategic planning process. This is an effort that I worked with when I was on active duty and I know well. Our veterans deserve a more focused attention. Never in our nation's history have we seen so many survivors coming home from the battlefield with such diverse needs. In my own district, I have a troubling problem with a family whose young man has been sent to California to be rehabilitated rather than a better-grade facility in Omaha closer to family and friends. I believe our committee can play a positive role in cutting through the bureaucratic nonsense. We can do better and we must. Nebraska's sons and daughters need to come home to heal here and take their place among us again. I believe a committee's Chair primary task is to lead by example. I believe in open, fair, and honest debate that results in solid leadership and legislation. I believe the Chair must ensure every citizen who wishes to be heard is treated with the utmost respect. After all, when George Norris referred to the other house of this branch, he was referring to the citizens. Running for the Chair of this committee has been an incredibly positive experience for me. I got to know most of you much better than I did before, and I appreciate the time you spent with me over the past month. As I visited with each of you privately, I only asked for one thing: Keep an open mind about the vote today, hear what I intend to do, and then vote. Today I'm asking you for your vote. I'm asking you for your trust, your confidence, and the honor to chair your Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Krist. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares that nominations are closed. Members, on your desk before you, you will see a pad of paper. At this time, we would ask for you to write the name on that ballot, and Mr. O'Donnell or Mr. Brown will pick those up as they move through the Legislature. I would ask members come forward to be tellers: Senator Gloor, Senator Nordquist, and Senator Lautenbaugh. Senator Avery is declared the winner. Congratulations, Senator Avery. We will now proceed to selection of Chair for Health and Human Services. Senator Campbell, you're recognized.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, colleagues. I place my name respectfully in nomination for the Chairmanship of the Health and Human Services Committee. And I must admit I am very grateful for the encouragement from you, my colleagues, to undertake this position. I've served on the committee the last two years, my first two years in the Legislature, and also have chaired the LB603 Oversight Committee. I have to have a personal note in here in that well over 30 years ago I walked into the Capitol as a volunteer lobbyist, and I want you to know I was a very young volunteer lobbyist. (Laughter) And I only knew one senator, my own senator, Jerry Warner, and had no idea of the legislative process. But there I was starting to

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work on children's issues. Over the course of time and as a local elected official, I began to build relationships and experiences over a broad spectrum of issues, and to see the interrelationship of problems of our most vulnerable citizens. And for many of those Nebraskans each day is difficult and is a trial. And they count on us to have the responsibility for their care and protection. I trust I will call upon you and many others across the state of Nebraska to forge answers to interests and concerns that we all have, and a good consensus for our future. For every committee, for every legislative year, there are difficult issues and there are difficult choices. And I certainly recognize that those are ahead for the Health and Human Services Committee and for all of us in this Legislature. But know that I welcome your counsel and consider it an honor to have your confidence. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Campbell. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Campbell.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Campbell Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Campbell. We will now proceed to selection of Chair of the Judiciary Committee. Senator Ashford, you're recognized.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to place my name in nomination for Chair of the Judiciary Committee. I am beginning my 13th year in this body. I am incredibly blessed and honored to be here. I've served with so many wonderful people, including the people in this room. The Judiciary Committee has been a great love of mine. This will be my third term as Chair. I spent time on the Judiciary Committee years ago as well and it's a great honor to serve. We have had a super committee over the last four years. We've tackled the tough issues. I can assure you we will continue to tackle the tough issues as we perform our function as the third baseline, so to say, of the Nebraska Legislature. I appreciate your support for this great honor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Ashford.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Ashford Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Ashford. We will now proceed to selection of Chair of the Natural Resources. Senator Langemeier, you're recognized.

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SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Mr. President and members of the body, I respectfully nominate myself, Chris Langemeier, for Chairman of Natural Resources Committee. Two years ago, as you saw fit to elect me as your Chair, I promised to run an open and a committee that's going to work together. We've done that. We've dealt with some issues, whether it's wildlife management, water, trails, and wind energy. We've worked on tough issues this year. And with that, I would ask that you continue your support of my nomination for Chair and I appreciate this opportunity and I appreciate my committee. Without my committee that I've had over these last two years, we wouldn't get anything done. So I appreciate that and ask for your support. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Langemeier. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Langemeier.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Langemeier Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Langemeier. (Gavel) We will now proceed to selection of Chair of the Nebraska Retirement Systems. Senator Gloor, you're recognized.

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I respectfully submit my name for Chairmanship of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee. Several months ago in a letter to this body I wrote that I thought we all brought various experiences, work-related, life-related, training, education, passion on certain issues. We all bring this to the legislative body and this variety of interests probably is superseded by what I think is a common interest and that is a hope that whatever we bring to this body will make life better for Nebraska and Nebraskans. And we do so with a mix of idealism and pragmatism. I think we all start our careers idealistic but the realities of the world certainly bring a greater degree of pragmatism to our outlook. And the extent to which we can balance that idealism with the pragmatism and find that balance is, I think, how we judge our own feelings of contribution and self-worth. I started in hospitals as a head of a personnel department, recruitment and hiring, benefits, armed with a shiny new degree that I had gotten and a lot of idealism. But that idealism, ultimately, was superseded by the realities of what my job was for several decades in an administrative role. And that was to sit down with individuals, sit across the table from individuals or groups of individuals who had differences of opinion and try and find ways to come together. Sometimes those discussions were respectful. Sometimes those discussions were a little less than respectful, but my challenge all the time was to try and get to yes. And it's that experience, I think, rather than my specific training that I think will make me a good Chair for this particular committee. You have to

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bring people along. You have to bring people in. You can't steamroll them. You can't bully them. You can't baffle them with a lot of information. You have to persuade them. And that's an experience, I think, I bring to this body. I enjoy this job immensely, more so than I ever thought I would. I wish I could serve on every committee of the Legislature. I find it fascinating and I have the time to be able to do that. Since this is my job now, I will bring that time, I will bring that energy, I will bring that balance I found between idealism and pragmatism to this body, and I ask for your support. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Gloor. Senator Nordquist, you're recognized.

SENATOR NORDQUIST: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I rise today to humbly nominate myself for the Chair of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee for the One Hundred Second Legislature. I ask for your vote, not because I believe I'm entitled to Chairmanship but rather to offer my years of experience studying our state retirement systems, the issues facing those systems, and years of experience working with individuals to solve the issues around those systems. There's no doubt that this committee deals with a highly technical, very narrow area of policy governed by decades of legislative decision making and legal precedent. Prior to being elected to this great institution, I served as the research analyst for the Retirement Committee. In that role as committee staff, I analyzed legislation and briefed members on legislation before the committee. I also monitored and attended and participated in meetings of the Public Employees Retirement Board and the Nebraska Investment Council. And I believe that those relationships I fostered with the agencies that are responsible for the investment performance and for the administration of the plan will serve this body and the committee well in years to come. For the past two years I've had the honor of serving as the Vice Chair of the committee. Together with Senator Dave Pankonin, in working closely with the Appropriations Chairman, Lavon Heidemann, we brought interested parties together, negotiated solutions, and built consensus to meet the state's pension obligations. Tough decisions were made but we did it unanimously in the best interest of the state, in the best interest of the plans, and the best interest of the plan participants. A 2010 analysis of our state pension plans called them a solid performer. And even through an economic slowdown we got higher marks, because we don't promise more than we deliver and we always meet our annual pension obligation. And this is the fiscally responsible approach that we must be committed to continuing to avoid the pitfalls of compounding unfunded pension obligations that's plaguing many other states around the country. Even with the responsible actions of our past, we face a significant challenge today, challenges that will require immediate action in this session and a long-term analysis of the sustainability of the structure of our pension plans. Reflected in the current budget estimated...the current estimated budget shortfall of \$986 million is a pension shortfall of about \$127 million. Having served on the Appropriations Committee the last two years, I fully understand how we need to balance those obligations with the other priorities and obligations of state government. And I

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plan to do this closely in partnership with Chairman Heidemann, other members of the body to ensure that we meet those annual commitments. Colleagues, I've been active in these issues for years. I have participated in and led Retirement Committee hearings. I've analyzed, introduced, and passed retirement legislation. I've been there to support committee legislation on the floor during debate and to answer questions for fellow members. I've built relationships with the agencies and plan participants, and I've helped develop solutions. I've also Chaired the E&R Committee for the last two years. (Laughter) But now I humbly ask for your support to Chair this committee and to continue working toward those common-sense solutions and develop the consensus we need to solve the problems we face. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Nordquist. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares nominations closed. Again, members, you have the pads on your desk, would ask that you write the names on there, on your ballots. Again, Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Brown will come through the Chamber to collect your ballots. I would ask the members, Senator Utter, Senator McGill, and Senator Fulton, to come forward to be tellers. (Doctor of the day introduced.) Senator Nordquist is declared the winner. Congratulations, Senator Nordquist. We will now proceed to selection of Chair of the Revenue Committee. Senator Cornett, you're recognized.

SENATOR CORNETT: Thank you. I rise to nominate myself as Chair of Revenue. Members of the body, today as we gather in this Chamber, our state is facing a challenge that is as serious as we have ever faced. We all understand the challenges that we are going to experience over the next 90 days and we'll be tested, tested to make the cuts necessary to achieve a balanced budget while still looking forward to move our state into a prosperous future. As Revenue Chair, I am committed to working with each and every one of you to achieve success for our state. I have served on Revenue for the last six years and have chaired for the last two. I have worked hard to listen to your points of view and address all of your concerns, to develop the economy of the state, and to serve the people of this state. I thank you for your consideration and support.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cornett. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Cornett.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Cornett Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Cornett. We will now proceed to selection of Chair for Transportation and Telecommunications. Senator Fischer, you're recognized.

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SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I rise to place my name in nomination for the position of Chairman of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. It's been my privilege and my pleasure to serve in that position for the last four years. All of us in here are so very fortunate that we're in this Chamber today, that we're in this branch of government that enjoys such a direct contact with the people we serve. Our constituents know us because we participate in their meetings, we go to their events in the communities and the neighborhoods that we serve. We listen and we learn when we make those visits. I believe that all of us value our service here in the Legislature and to the people of Nebraska. It's a tremendous honor to serve in this body. And because I enjoy that service and when we work on public policy and the process involved, I would like to continue to work as your Chair of this committee. I view our committee as a committee of the future. And even in these uncertain times that we're now facing, I believe that we cannot lose sight of a positive future for all Nebraskans. I pledge to you that, with the assistance of the other members of this committee, I will carry out the responsibilities of Chair in an appropriate fashion. We will continue to work with each of you when you bring proposals to the committee, even though it may take a couple years. We will continue to assist each of you during floor debate on your bills that are advanced from the committee. This is the third time that I've stood here and asked for your vote. It's not easy to do and it's not easy for any of us to do, because when we ran for the Legislature we wanted to serve the people of Nebraska. It's not about me and it's not about you. The work we do here is for the people of Nebraska. I thank you for your past support, and today I again ask for your vote that I may continue to serve as Chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Fischer.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is a motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Fischer Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Fischer. We will now proceed to selection of Chair of Urban Affairs. Senator McGill, you're recognized.

SENATOR MCGILL: Thank you, Mr. President. Last but not least, I rise today, friends, to ask for your nomination and continued support in my role as Chairman of the Urban Affairs Committee. I've been on this committee my whole time in the Legislature, and last year this body elected me to be Chair. And like Senator Wightman, the body elected me despite my young age. (Laugh) But I've really had...it's been a pleasure to serve with this community because everyone works in such a collaborative and open way. I

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mean, I hope that my Chairmanship has something to do with that teamwork that's exhibited. We faced a couple of tough issues last year that have continued with us through the interim such as our sprinkler issue in buildings or in new homes, and natural gas rate cases. And it's been a pleasure over the summer to work with Senator Coash as the Vice Chair, in particular, in going out and really digging into these issues. It's important to me that we take an open approach to every issue and that we work together as a team and collect as much information as we can. And that often means going on site and visiting with those interested parties in their locations and seeing how things are run outside. I know we'll be getting two new members to the committee this next year and so I look forward to them joining us, and I hope I can continue to get your support as we move on into this next session. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator McGill. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast, by acclamation, for Senator McGill.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator McGill Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator McGill. Senator McCoy, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR McCOY: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the special and select committee Chairpersons by secret ballot.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator McCoy. The question is the motion to proceed to the election of the Chairpersons of the special and select committee Chairpersons. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. We will proceed to the first committee, Intergovernmental Cooperation. Senator Janssen, you're recognized.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Today I rise to announce my resignation from bachelorhood. That's last year's notes, never mind. (Laughter) Here we go. Today I rise to ask for your support to be the Chairman once again for the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee. I've enjoyed my time on the committee the past two years, essentially because we've had no meetings the last two years. The committee predates our organization as a Unicameral Legislature and has seen its duties and responsibilities change over the years. The Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee is referenced in two sections of our statutes and they're very brief. It's Section 81-816, which describes the makeup, and Section 81-819 states that the committee functions during the regular sessions and also during the interims. It also states that the committee shall constitute for this state the Legislative Council of

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American Legislators' Association. As you may know, the American Legislators' Association no longer exists. The organization was absorbed by the Council of State Governments approximately 50 years ago. If I'm privileged to be reelected as Chair of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee, I pledge to work with the Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council to examine the committee's statutory references and to evaluate its future endeavors. I would welcome the opportunity to undertake this and review and plot the future course of the committee. That may very well include dissolving the committee. Like many of you, I ran on the platform of small government and lower taxes. This may be one good faith effort to show other state agencies that the government can change with time and become leaner and meaner and also more efficient. So essentially, I'm giving you an opportunity to vote for me and then kick me out of office, so you may enjoy that as well. But I would appreciate your vote in doing that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Well, I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Janssen.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is a motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Janssen Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Janssen. We will now proceed to selection of Chair on the Rules Committee. Senator Lautenbaugh, you're recognized.

SENATOR LAUTENBAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I've always tried to be a less is more kind of guy, especially at 11:53. And it's been my privilege to serve on the Rules Committee. I think we handled the few meetings we had ably, and all felt they had a fair hearing before the committee. And I would appreciate your support to serve once again in this capacity. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Lautenbaugh. Are there additional nominations? Seeing none, Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Lautenbaugh.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Lautenbaugh Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Lautenbaugh. We will now proceed to selection of Chair of Enrollment and Review. Senator Nordquist, you're recognized.

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SENATOR NORDQUIST: Mr. President and members, I get the honor of rising today to perform the Legislature's version of hazing its youngest member, and that is to nominate him to be our Chairperson of Enrollment and Review Committee. It's a committee that gets no dedicated staff and you don't get any priority bills either. But I nominate Tyson Larson as the next Chairman of the Enrollment and Review Committee.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Nordquist. Are there additional nominations? Senator Cook, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Larson.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Cook. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Larson Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Larson. Pursuant to provisions of Article IV, Section 4 of the constitution, I recognize Senator Karpisek for a motion.

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that a committee of three be appointed to escort the Secretary of State to the Chamber to deliver the election returns of the general election of November 2010. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Karpisek. The question is the adoption of the motion to appoint a committee to escort the Secretary of State. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. I appoint Senator Gloor, Senator Mello, and Senator Council to escort the Secretary of State to deliver election returns. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: (Gavel) The Chair recognizes the Secretary of State, John Gale.

SECRETARY GALE: Members of the Legislature, Mr. Clerk, I deliver to you the abstracts of the 2010 General Election from the 93 counties in Nebraska for canvass by the members of the One Hundred Second Nebraska Legislature. (Legislative Journal pages 16-18.)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Secretary Gale. Would the Escort Committee please escort Secretary of State to the back of the Chambers. Senator Coash, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to approve the report of the

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Secretary of State and the candidates stated therein be declared duly elected.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Coash. The question is the adoption of the motion to accept the report from the Secretary of State. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Senator Christensen, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to arrange to hold the Inaugural Ceremonies for the newly elected state officials on Thursday, January 6, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Christensen. The question is the motion to hold the Inaugural Ceremonies on January 6. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Speaker Flood, you're recognized for an announcement.

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, members. At this time the pages are handing out a memo that should help guide you through the next couple of days into next week. I would ask you also to put these dates in your calendar as it relates to the times we start, when priority bills are going to be accepted. There's a lot in this memo that's just been handed out. It's also available on my Web site, on the Speaker's Web site. So please review this carefully, share it with your staff. If you have any questions give me or Laurie in my office a call. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Speaker Flood. Senator Lautenbaugh, you're recognized for an announcement.

SENATOR LAUTENBAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Just briefly, the Rules Committee will move fairly swiftly here at the outset. It is our plan to actually have a hearing on any proposed rule changes on Friday of this week. If you have changes in mind, we would request that you get them to us by 5:00 tomorrow. So I realize that's a relatively short window, but we had some timing issues, and hope you will comply with this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Lautenbaugh. Mr. Clerk, do you have items for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, but one item. Senator Hansen, as Chair of the Committee on Committees, would announce that the committee will meet at 2:00 this afternoon, Committee on Committees at 2:00 this afternoon in Room 1524; Committee on Committees, 2:00 in 1524.

Mr. President, I have a priority motion. Speaker Flood would move to adjourn the body until Thursday morning, January 6, at 10:00 a.m.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion to adjourn until Thursday, January 6, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. We are adjourned.