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Floor Debate  
April 17, 2014

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[LB191 LB191A LB254 LB276 LB276A LB383A LB383 LB390 LB464A LB464 LB526 LB565 LB700 LB719 LB788 LB811 LB907A LB907 LB916 LB923 LB923A LB961 LB994 LB994A LB999 LB999A LB1042A LB1042 LB1076 LB1098 LB1098A LB1115 LB1115A LR38 LR395 LR399 LR413 LR427 LR440 LR482 LR615 LR616 LR617 LR619 LR620 LR621 LR622 LR623 LR625 LR626 LR627 LR628]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN PRESIDING

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the sixtieth day of the One Hundred Third Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for today is Pastor Jonathan Sloan from the First Presbyterian Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Pastor Sloan is Senator Nelson's pastor.

PASTOR SLOAN: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Pastor Sloan. I call to order the sixtieth day of the One Hundred Third Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, a communication from the Governor (read re LB464, LB464A, LB565, LB719, LB994, and LB994A). Second communication (read re LB191, LB191A, LB907, LB907A, LB961, LB999, LB999A, LB1042, LB1042A, LB1076, LB1098, LB1098A, LB1115, and LB1115A). LR413 and LR427 reported correctly engrossed. Explanation of vote from Senator Brasch (re LR399). I have a Reference report referring LR628. And the report of the lobby, as required by state law, as well as acknowledgement of receipt of agency reports. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1609-1613.) [LB464 LB464A LB565 LB719 LB994 LB994A LB191 LB191A LB907 LB907A LB961 LB999 LB999A LB1042 LB1042A LB1076 LB1098 LB1098A LB1115 LB1115A LR413 LR427 LR399 LR628]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: (Visitors introduced.) While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR38,

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LR395, LR399, LR413, LR427, LR440, LR482, LR615, LR616, LR617, LR619, LR620, LR621, LR622, LR623, LR625, LR626, and LR627. Mr. Clerk, we move to Final Reading. Members should return to their seats in preparation for Final Reading. Mr. Clerk, the first bill is LB254. [LR38 LR395 LR399 LR413 LR427 LR440 LR482 LR615 LR616 LR617 LR619 LR620 LR621 LR622 LR623 LR625 LR626 LR627 LB254]

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Chambers would move to return the bill for a specific amendment, AM2941. (Legislative Journal page 1614.) [LB254]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Senator Chambers, to open on your motion. [LB254]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I've filed this same amendment on every bill that is before us. I know that there's no way to kill any of these bills, and that wouldn't be my intention this morning even if I could. If I did that, I would be like those who destroy these animals that I care so much about. I'd be killing for the sheer love of killing and to have a trophy. But I have some things that I'm going to say today, and every bill is going to contribute some time to me. While the session was going on, I mentioned that I would get my pound of flesh. But it wouldn't be as happened in Shakespeare's play, where all that could be taken by Shylock from this individual who owed him was flesh, no blood, nothing else. And I stated that I will take skin, I will take flesh, I will take bone, I will take marrow, I will take blood. I took my bumps this session. And I had said that ultimately the session would be delivered into my hands. This is exemplified by the little rhyme I handed out today, "The Last Day of the Legislative Session." It has a line drawing of a personage who is known variously as "the grim reaper." But in these days of technology, this person is known as "the international harvester." "It matters not how long one may elude the reaper's beckoning; Everyone, eventually, must face that day of reckoning; Here we are, where we should be; What will happen? We shall see." I think that it's only appropriate that that regal animal which has hovered over this session, that animal which has been slain brutally, barbarically, and cruelly by those who love to kill for the sheer love of killing, to make a trophy of one of the most beautiful animals in this part of the world, and it's only appropriate that the spirit of those great cats...and I use the term "great," not "big"; they're called "big cats." The word "big" refers only to physical size. "Great" refers to characteristics or traits that are outstanding, that are extraordinary, that separate one from the others. And that's what I feel about this animal called a "mountain lion," a "cougar," a "catamount," a "leopard." It's only fitting and proper that the spirit of those great cats who were slain should stalk through this Chamber one last time, on this last day of the session. And I'm going to avenge, to the extent that I can, the deaths of those animals. It was wrong for them to be killed in the way that they were. And I don't know whether this should be called a "requiem" for the great cats, because a requiem is a service for the dead; I don't know if it should be called an "elegy," which is a lament for one who is dead. Whatever it would be characterized or styled as, I'm going to take my

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time. You can engage me if you want to, or you can sit while I have my say. But there is a symmetry in nature. And there is no thing as symmetrical as a circle. It is a curved line on a plane, and every point along that line is equidistant from a fixed point, or the center. It's appropriate that I end this session as I began it, speaking on behalf of these animals. And that's what I'm going to do. Here is what was said by the person a long time ago, and I think it's appropriate, if 1940 is considered a long time ago. June 4, 1940, a man named Winston Churchill was speaking to the House of Commons on Dunkirk. "We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France; we shall fight on the seas and oceans; we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches; we shall fight on the landing grounds; we shall fight in the fields and in the streets; we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender." He didn't say they'd never be whipped. He said they'd never surrender, and neither will I. If you look at the worksheet, you'll see that one veto survived, one bill returned by the Governor, the bill that would have rescued these animals from the arbitrary establishment by Game and Parks Commission of what has been called a hunting season. I call it target practice, butchery, slaughtering. And they, as I stated, will pay. But they didn't pay this session, because I made an agreement--I won't say with the devil--with two of my colleagues, who were carrying legislation for Game and Parks to get them some money. I stated...or we agreed that if my bill to rescue these animals by repealing the authorization given to Game and Parks to set a hunting season on them, I would get out of the way of their legislation. I would then view Game and Parks as I always had. And I kept my end of that bargain, even though it was very difficult, extremely difficult. There were opportunities to go after the legislation that Senators Avery and Hadley were pushing. When the budget came through and there were vetoes, Game and Parks was low-hanging fruit, easy to reach. But my word is my word. So I stuck by it even though it was extremely difficult. Next year is coming. Some of the underminers have done their undermining of our process and other things on their way out the door. They won't be back. But others will, and so shall I. And Game and Parks has not escaped. What some think was the end of the war will turn out to be what's called a Pyrrhic victory: you waste all of your resources and you win a battle, but you have so weakened yourself that you then lose the war. The war is not over. I notice "the general" is not in his seat. He would be aware of references to war and the nine principles of warfare, but I will just mention one of them. That is the element of surprise. [LB254]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB254]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That doesn't mean you have to take your enemy unawares, but the way you come for your enemy may be in a manner unexpected. I didn't surprise anybody this morning. I had my amendments drafted by the Bill Drafters Office; I attached them to every bill. They're on your gadget, so you will know what is in store. And I will continue when I'm recognized. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB254]

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.)  
Senator Chambers. [LB254]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature. The bill to which this amendment is offered has had an arduous, tortuous journey through the legislative process to arrive at its destination today. It will be launched across the finish line; it will be passed; and the Governor will sign it, as will be the case, likely, with every other bill on the agenda today. As I've told you all, and it should bring you a glimmer of hope, I am closer to being 100 years old than I am to being 50. So maybe I will flag, maybe I will fail, maybe I will surrender. But don't count on it. I passed around a letter that was in "The Public Pulse," April 6. The caption: Cougars, comma, Pipeline Get Different Treatment. "I find it very interesting that Governor Dave Heineman has a problem with removing the authority of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission regarding the hunting of cougars, calling it, 'poor public policy,' April 3, World-Herald. However, when it involved the Keystone XL pipeline, the Governor seemed to have no problem removing the authority of the Public Service Commission." And the court told him that was wrong, but he did it anyway. "It appears special interests are alive and well in the Governor's office." Then a paraphrase of Abraham Lincoln: You can fool all people some of the time; you can fool some senators all of the time. But none of you was fooled, not one of you. You knew that there was nothing unlawful or unconstitutional about taking from Game and Parks by legislation what had been granted to them by legislation. But you chose your path, and I'm choosing mine. I wrote a rhyme. And when I started it, it was in jest. Then in the middle of it, it turned into something else. And by the time I got to the very end, it said something that needed to be said. And I handed this out once before, last session. "Afternoon Delight, Or Paeon to the Great White Hunter, Or Nature Shall Have Their Way": A platitudinous platypus was arguing with an artsy aardvark, when a high-strung hyena's laugh startled a jumpy, gyrating giraffe but not the crafty card shark; Languorous, lolling in the sun, a dinosaurian alligator showed its teeth like yellowed steel, awaiting, unsuspecting meal, a voracious masticator; Lions, leopards, fierce and ferocious, in the grasses tall did languish while a soaring, stately eagle, sharp-eyed, ravenous, and regal, gave unwary fish great anguish; A bellowing water buffalo did snuff and snort beside the water; Rhinos with their watery, weak eyes, small birds which did flit and seek flies rested as the day grew hotter; Trophy hunters sought to harvest heads to hang upon some wall, or skins or furs to cover floors, or horns to fasten to drab doors, and in their daydreams tower tall; Ah, imagination is funny... [LB254]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB254]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...Would-be Hemingways, boasting, tipping, when the quarry is in their sights, the poetry of death each writes, like poet master Rudyard Kipling; Stealthily a great white hunter, armed to kill, sneaked in to plunder; Suddenly a lion's

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roar the animals summoned, and they tore his Christian limbs asunder; Sun and sky and cloud and wind, claw and feather, fang and fin settled down and deeply sighed; He who came to harvest died; Nature's order ruled again. Thank you, Mr. President.  
[LB254]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.)  
Senator Chambers, you are next in the queue and recognized. [LB254]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Religion was brought into the Chamber today as it always is. So when I withdraw this amendment, this bill is read, and the next bill comes up, and my amendment is offered, then I think I'm going to go off into religion. And it's appropriate because it has something to do with giving an indication of what my plans are for today. I was here every single day of the session. I participated in most of what went on here. When I agree to put myself in a position to do a job--nobody put a gun to my head, nobody compelled me or coerced me to be here--then I should do it the best that I can, based on the way I think I ought to do it. I had brought to my attention some criticisms that were made of how the Speaker ran the session, and some of you were very upset that he didn't put me in line. And who's going to do that? And the Speaker pointed out, from what was in the article, that I wasn't the only one who took time. What happened on the extension...or expansion of Medicaid? What happened on the resolution dealing with immigration? What happened on the legislation designed to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation? What happened? But people who have blinders have only one thing that they can see; but, really, if you don't know it by now, you'll never know it. What people around here say with reference to me means not very much, because their word does not mean much. They say one thing and don't mean it. If you trust them, it's like a broken tooth or a foot out of joint. Going to the "Bibble," in the Old Testament, there was a certain king, and he was described in the following manner: he was like a sharpened reed. And if you rested your palm on him, as if resting it on a sharpened reed, and put your weight on it, the reed would pierce your palm. That old "Bibble" has some interesting things to say and interesting ways of saying it. The problem that I have with it is people want to say it's supernatural, that it is flawless, that there are no errors in it. But even those who say that have trouble accepting everything in it. I was having a little discussion with my colleague Senator Brasch. And she believes in the "Bibble," based on what she said, but she had trouble saying--even though she had talked about religious liberty in the past--that even though the "Bibble" allowed...and some of God's greatest followers in the Old Testament had several wives. But she could not categorically state that if a man, in the practice of his religion based on God's word as found in the Old Testament, wanted to have more than one wife, should the law approve of that? She halted; she hesitated, which means maybe what's in the Bible is not God's word after all. Maybe there was some fiddling and tinkering. But, in any case, it doesn't all have to be believed: oaths, where Jesus said don't swear at all; praying, where he said don't do it openly, go in the closet. You all have shown that, in reality, Jesus didn't really know

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what he was talking about; he can say those things, but he has no understanding. So you annul what Jesus said. [LB254]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB254]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You trump what Jesus said. You hurl it back into his face and let him know that you are wiser than he, you know more of what this God that you claim to worship would require of you than Jesus knew. So in the same way you amend a statute here, you amended what Jesus said. But I'll go into that the next time around. Senator Coash and others worked very hard on the bill which is providing me time this morning. There are people and their children who will benefit mightily from that bill. When it comes to peace of mind, not total peace, but less depression, less fear, less uncertainty, this bill will give a measure of that. And it's too bad that the attitude and the spirit that informed that bill could not... [LB254]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Time. [LB254]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...be more evident on the floor in other cases. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB254]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Is anyone else wishing to speak on the motion to return to Select File? Seeing none, Senator Chambers to close on his motion to return. [LB254]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as I proceed, I'm going to talk about what I consider to be the abuse of our system, the ignoring of the requirements for good legislating. Even the Governor had talked about it, then he got cold feet. He knew that the legislative process had been mangled. But I guess he concluded that since he is the executive branch head, let the Legislature mangle its rules if it chooses to; let the Legislature violate the principles of good legislating if they choose to do so. They ask for these things; he'll give it to them. But he wouldn't give me my lions, my cougars. I'm the one that he fixed, and the legislators went along with that. So I cannot bring those animals back to life, as I've stated; I don't have that power. But I can do something about maintaining a memory and recollection of them and point out how human beings, by killing these regal animals for the sheer love of killing, how Game and Parks, in order to make blood money, sold one of these permits for \$13,500. And you all want to sit like knots on logs and pretend that this is biologically and scientifically accepted management of this minuscule number of animals who are native to this state but were exterminated, removed from this state when your ancestors came here from Europe, people who know about destroying, who destroyed everywhere they went--South America, Central America, North America, the Islands--slaughtering, raping, pillaging, enslaving. Europeans did that, brought syphilis, sold and traded smallpox-infected blankets to the native peoples in this land, because the native peoples meant something when they gave their word, and they thought the

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others felt the same way when they gave their word. But their very trusting nature is what led to their demise. Now they are locked on reservations; they are wracked by poverty, alcoholism, disease, ignorance, discrimination, and treated as though they are the interlopers. They're not the interlopers. Unfortunately, they not only met but they welcomed those ships that your forebears came here on. Mr. President, I will withdraw that pending amendment. [LB254]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Motion to return is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, LB254. [LB254]

CLERK: (Read LB254 on Final Reading.) [LB254]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of the law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB254E pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB254]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1615.) 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB254]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB254E passes with the emergency clause attached. We now proceed to LB276. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye...excuse me. Mr. Clerk. [LB254 LB276]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to return the bill for a specific amendment (AM2942, Legislative Journal pages 1615-1616). [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Senator Chambers, to open on your motion to return. [LB276]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is the identical amendment that I had offered to the previous bill and which I am offering to the remaining bills. It would strike everything from this bill and replace it with what was LB671, which the Governor vetoed, which is the only bill vetoed that was not overridden by my colleagues. So that is what I'm offering this motion to return the bill for. But, as I stated in the beginning, there is no expectation that any bill will be returned, and I will not take this motion to a vote on this bill. But who knows about the others? I had jotted down some things with reference to the nine principles of war for the sake of "General Garrett," Senator Garrett, but he's not here...but so it won't seem like I just said that because I saw he was not here and indicated something--as some of my colleagues would do--which is not really true hoping that my hand would not be called. The first...oh, and by the way, I've mentioned this, a young man, he died when he was 29, Christopher Marlowe, he is one of the persons, as young as he was, who did what I consider to be some profound writing. And he made a statement: Accursed be he that first invented war. There have always been wars, there have always been rumors of

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wars. Maybe the first war occurred between two brothers, when Cain bashed his brother's head in for whatever reason one brother would have for killing another. And that set the tone. But the first principle of war relates to "objective." And every military effort must be directed toward a decisive, obtainable objective. And that consists in the destruction of the enemy's armed forces and his will to fight. That is the ultimate military objective of war: End the ability of your enemy to fight. The second relates to "offensive." Only offensive action achieves decisive results. And that's what I'm looking at today. The war is not being fought today. A foundation is being laid today. The rules of engagement are being disclosed. And we will resume this battle next session. In the old days, if you ever read history, you notice that a lot of wars started or ended in the month of April. But they fought during good weather and daylight hours. That's when wars were fought, so that you could see. And they wore bright-colored uniforms in order to distinguish their good guys from the bad guys they were trying to kill. And once there had been a few volleys on the battlefield, there was so much smoke that it would have been difficult to see and make out who the enemy was as opposed to one of your friends. And those who have studied those old-time weapons that they had knew that the barrels were smooth inside. And when you put that ball down in that barrel and you fired it, it didn't have rifling that would make it spin and go straight; it would bounce from side to side as it made its way out that barrel. And if it hit the left side just before it went out, the ball went to the right. If it hit the right side, it veered to the left. So you would have everybody in a straight line; the ones in front would kneel down so they wouldn't be shot by those behind them. Then when they laid down this blanket of fire, they did not aim at an individual, they just fired in the general direction. But at any rate, daylight hours and good weather constituted the times when fighting would occur. The offensive action permits the commander to exploit the initiative and impose his will on the enemy. The defensive may be forced on the commander, but he should adopt it deliberately only as a temporary expedient while awaiting an opportunity for offensive action. The third principle is "simplicity," and that must be the keynote of military operations. Uncomplicated plans that are clearly expressed in orders that are easily understood are what you have to strive for, because as anybody knows who's even read about military operations or watched them on any of these documentaries know that it's almost impossible to lay out a plan and have it carried out in the way it was laid out. So the simpler it is, the greater likelihood not of succeeding but of things going wrong, and you hope that you'll succeed. Then this "unity of command" doesn't need any comment, but that's the fourth one. The fifth one has to do with "mass." And that has nothing to do with what I deal with around here, because that constitutes maximum available combat power, and it must be applied at the point of decision. I never have the maximum of power. I have to be like the little fox that the European, the British, those paragons of heroism, would do when they set their hounds loose on an unoffending, helpless fox: chase it down and then let the hounds tear it to ribbons. That was their idea of fun, the British, the ones whom you all worship to this day. Every time they tell you that this young guy and the young woman he married are doing something, because they had a little baby, then all of your attention in America is directed that way, because beneath it

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all you still worship the British and you feel that they're superior. But this idea of outnumbering your foe is what you try to do. But there is such a thing as overkill. And these so-called hunters engage in it all the time. One thing that Senator Garrett pointed out when he said why he is opposed to hunting, period...but he didn't want to take the power from Game and Parks, trying to impose the military model on the legislative; it won't work. But he said, if you're going to hunt, they should hunt with a bowie knife. But you won't find any of these would-be "Kiplings" out there with a bowie knife. They will not put themselves in a position where any harm can come to them. And then they take target practice with these cougars. They have the hounds chase the animal up a tree. Then when the animal is in the tree, they steady the gun on a limb, and the great white hunter, manifesting white superiority, will shoot that animal out of that tree, that helpless, unoffending treed animal who had put up the white flag and said, "I surrender. I cannot hurt you, I don't want to hurt you; I want to get away, but you won't let me now that you have me. Let me live." And the great white hunter says, "Not on your life," and takes the life of that animal and is proud, is proud, bursting with machismo, because with a high-powered gun he killed a treed animal. Six is "economy of force." Seven, "maneuver." Eight is "surprise." [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB276]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Surprise may decisively shift the balance of combat power in favor of the commander who achieves it. And sometimes we are surprised. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you are next in the queue and recognized. [LB276]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Surprise consists of striking the enemy when, where, or in a manner for which he is unprepared...in a manner for which he is unprepared. It is not essential that the enemy be taken unaware, but only that he become aware too late to react effectively. Surprise can be achieved by speed, secrecy, and deception. Deception got me this session; I was surprised this session. They got me. I should have known how these Europeans are; I've read about it. I see what they've done to my Native brothers; yes, I have blood of Native Americans in me. I should have paid attention, but I didn't. So deception got me. But that's surprise. Number nine relates to "security," protecting your flanks, knowing where the enemy is, providing safeguards, and so forth. Those are the nine principles. And had "the general" been here, I would have engaged him in a little discussion. But military matters have always been fascinating to these transplanted Europeans; they love to kill. And they love to do things either with force or the threat of force. If they're dealing with a weak country like Iraq, a weak country like Iran, they'll go running in there. But what about Russia on the border of Ukraine? You think they're going to run and attack Russia? Well, they're doing like some animals do; they're puffing out their chest, they're

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bellowing. But they're not going to commit an aggressive action. They're moving warships in that direction, but you think they're going to attack anything that pertains to Russia? You think Ukraine wants the European Union to impose too onerous a sanction upon Russia of an economic nature? Do you know where Ukraine gets its gas from? If they don't have that gas that Russia supplies, and winter comes, their little babies are going to be cold. They're going to be cold. Russia has used the type of wisdom, the cunning, the know-how which people who play chess develop. You get your enemy who plays checkers to look at the next move. And they prepare the whole game in advance: the beginning, the middle, and the end. So they've got Europe enmeshed in trade agreements because the Russians know how greedy and tied to money the other Europeans are; Russia might be more Asian than European. But they've got all of these interlocking agreements, which now Europe is not so sure they want to run the risk of disturbing. Russia developed its production of oil and natural gas, and much of Europe relies on that. And one of the main pipelines goes through Ukraine. Russia has nuclear weapons. Russia has bombers; Russia has warplanes of every variety, fighters. They have warships; they have destroyers. They have it all. But do you think that this country is going to start a war with Russia over Ukraine? Why you must be mad. And Russia knows that. Their leaders are starting to mock... [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB276]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...America's threats about what they intend to do, because Russia knows it's so much hot air, just like a lot of the promises made around here. If you want somebody like me to just sit in my...well, I don't sit in my seat...but to stand here and go along, don't mess with me; don't bother me; leave me alone. But you laughed, you mocked, and I can't get my full measure of revenge. But I can make a down payment on it. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers; you are next in the queue and recognized. [LB276]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Speaking of war, and this is such a warlike country when it's attacking weak countries; they ran into Vietnam after seeing what happened to the French at the battle of Dien Bien Phu. That should have let America know to mind their own business, but they blundered into that country. As somebody described them, "rice eaters": a bowl of rice, gym shoes, and a blade. And all they needed was a blade, because when the sun went down and it was dark, it was even-stein, and they drove America out of Vietnam. There was a guy named Henry A. Kissinger, and the "A" stood for "Alfred." Here's what he said in a magazine called Foreign Affairs, and he was quoted in that magazine in January of 1969: A conventional army loses if it does not win--America did not win--the guerrilla army wins if it does not lose. The guerrilla fighters in Vietnam did not lose; they won. There was Lebanon, all of these places where America was so sure that this big country could run in there and run over

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everybody. They stayed in Afghanistan longer than Russia; they saw Russia get run out of there. Afghanistan is known as the graveyard of superpowers. But America, under George Bush, were going to show that they would make a difference. But they went the same way as all the others. They got bogged down in Vietnam. When they ran into Korea, they thought they were getting ahold of a mouse; but what they found out they had done was to get the tip end of the big toe of a Chinese dragon. And when China got involved, America was driven out of Korea. They didn't win there, so they lost. And I've said that the wars are the bookmarks of American history. You could start with the Revolutionary War, go to the War of 1812, then the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the War with Spain, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, then all these so-called other little hot spots all over the world. When wars are the bookmarks of your country's history, then it's not surprising that the individuals in that country would develop a similar attitude, one where killing, or the threat of it, is how things get done. I live in a community where there are young people, some, a very small percentage, but they are a devastating element. And they are armed. They get their arms from people outside the community. And the ones whose job it is to enforce the law will do nothing about it. I tell people in the community: you all are not cops, you don't have the power to arrest, it's not your job to track down people and the source of guns and try to take them from anybody or arrest anybody. We have to try, by whatever means necessary, to bring pressure to bear on those whose job it is to deal with these issues to see if something can be done. But violence is taken in through the pores... [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB276]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...of the young people in this country, not just those in my community--but that's where I live, I'm keenly aware of it--but when I watch television, and I see young people of all racial descriptions involved in violence, not just gun violence but brutality in school, ganging up on other children, manifesting bullying. Then there are teachers, counselors, coaches, and others to whom we trust our children, entrust our children's welfare to them, and they violate that trust, these people we trusted. Our children are sexually abused, sexually assaulted, and misused in unimaginable ways. And it carries right over to these so-called hunters. They like to find these unoffending creatures, which are beautiful... [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Time. [LB276]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and kill them. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Is anyone else wishing to talk on the return to Select File? Seeing none, Senator Chambers, this is your time to close. [LB276]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I had spoken three times on this one? [LB276]

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Yes. [LB276]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then I shall close. Members of the Legislature, if I'm not mistaken, our session this year is for 60 days. The 60th day does not run out until midnight. But I'm not going to even try to keep us here that long; that's not my intention at this point. But in the same way that other people change their mind, maybe I'll change my mind. And maybe instead of just making a motion to return a bill to offer my amendment that I've got up there, I may return it to strike the enacting clause or make a motion to return it for any number of amendments. But I haven't decided completely yet. This is an example of what Lord Acton said: Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. But somebody else said that the quality of mercy is the most powerful thing that a sovereign can have, and the extension of mercy should be done if a sovereign wants to be just. So justice should always be seasoned with mercy. That means that a person because of his or her conduct deserves, if you want to call it that, merits, if you want to call it that, warrants, if you want to call it that, some kind of retributive action, in other words, punishment, sometimes torturous. But the sovereign is the one who can show mercy, can extend clemency. People can be placed in that position as the rules of the Legislature have placed me in that position today. You all are captives of your system; you're captive of your rules, the rules that I voted against adopting and that I vote against adopting every session. But I've voted to suspend those rules. Why would I do such a thing? I know what I'm dealing with. I know you act in haste. You don't adequately judge a situation, so you cannot function under the very rules you adopt. So every time you suspend your rules, you're acknowledging that you cannot comply with the rules that you adopted and you need to get them out of the way. And I help you because I'm understanding of what it means to try to get some things done. This bill I haven't even looked at, but it's from Senator Nordquist: Change provisions of the Early Intervention Act. Well, nobody can intervene early with me, because I'm going to take my time, and I'm going to take your time. And at this time, Mr. President, I withdraw that motion. [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: The motion to return to Select File is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB276]

CLERK: 41 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB276]

CLERK: Mr. President, engrossed LB276 was introduced by Senators Nordquist and Campbell. (Read LB276 by title on Final Reading.) [LB276]

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of the law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB276 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB276]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1617.) 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB276]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB276 passes. We now proceed to LB276A. [LB276 LB276A]

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Chambers would move to return the bill for a specific amendment, AM2943 (Legislative Journal pages 1617-1618). [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Senator Chambers, on your motion to return. [LB276A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is the same amendment that I had offered before and that will be offered on all the other bills remaining. And I'll say it again: the spirit of those great cats who had been killed by the so-called trophy hunters for the sheer love of killing and destroying, the spirit of those great cats will continue to stalk through this Chamber. And I will not relent. Those animals are at risk. I can't stop people from killing them, but I can say what it is I think about their killing. And my opportunity will come to inflict some pain, not of a physical variety, but some pain on those who hypocritically pretend that the Legislature cannot take from Game and Parks the authority given to them. Why did they have to have that authority? Because mountain lions were considered game animals and they couldn't be hunted without authority being given to allow the hunting to occur. So if they couldn't be hunted until the authority was given, who set that system up? The Legislature. Then there are some people running around here thinking I'm going to believe them when they say that the Legislature is forbidden by the constitution to regulate which animals can be killed, the number that can be killed, the method by which they can be killed. These guys would like to go out and shoot some cranes, whooping cranes. They'd love to kill some cranes and take them to the taxidermist and have their own crane...I see Senator Karpisek sitting over there, and I didn't mean to ignore him when I neglected to mention that the redistricting bill fell prey to what is called the filibuster, also. But the fat mouths, the cowards who wouldn't say anything to me, went to complain, to tattletale, to the Speaker...to tattletale to the Speaker and say, "Speaker, do something about Ernie Chambers." Why should the Speaker do something about me? He doesn't own me. There were some young girls, they sang a song that I really liked. It was, "You Don't Own Me": I'm not one of your little toys; you don't own me. They didn't write it, but they sang it better than anybody else could sing it. And nobody owns me. Patience is something enjoyed by stones; they just wait. They just wait, by hillsides. They just wait. And when the right set of circumstances come together, that hillside that loomed and

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towered over a settlement of Europeans, the descendants of Europeans, when the right set of circumstances comes, that hillside falls, it comes crashing down--stones, mud, earth--and it kills. It is no respecter of persons; it kills old people, young people, infants; that's what nature does. You kill knowingly, intentionally because you get a thrill out of killing something. I had mentioned rats the other day and told how people who say that they love animals don't love rats the same way, because they say they're disease-ridden, they hang out in sewers, they go where it's dirty. But all of the dirt that they rummage around in was generated by human beings. Who built the sewers? Who fills the sewers? Who does that? Who spreads the garbage? But rats have traits that human beings would do well to emulate. Rats look out for each other. I saw a program the other day; and when it's very cold, they come together to share warmth so that they all can live. Some rats were put in a maze, and one rat was put in a little cage-like structure; and the other rats immediately, when they saw it, began trying to find a way to free that one...the rats, not taught. Had they been like human beings, they would have tried to find a way to torment, to bait, to ridicule, to cause more harm to this one who could not fight back. That's the human model. And people of my complexion have gone through it through history. One of us was dragged out of jail in Omaha in 1919, dragged down the street, hanged, body riddled with bullets, and set on fire, by the Europeans, the master race. But these rats didn't do that. They found out how to open that cage. And every time the cage was closed, the rats came and opened that cage to release that rat. Then what was done was to put some chocolate chips in the pathway to the trap, and it was still in the maze. And you know what those rats did? They passed up the chocolate chips, and they went and let that rat out, then led him back to where the chocolate chips were so he could share. That's the rat. And you all go out and you see that beautiful animal and you say, let me kill it, teach your children how to kill them. And you talk about all life being precious. The closer it comes to looking like you, the more you can accept it. If it has a big, round face and large eyes and it's little and young, you can relate to that. Mountain lion cubs, kittens, are very cute. But when they grow up, people want to kill them; and you run around here talking about what a threat they are. And if Game and Parks had done their job, why are they now saying that they're going to undertake some studies for the next two years or so to see whether or not that population of mountain lions should be managed? Why are they doing it now? Because of the pressure that they feel. Who put the pressure on them? I did. And I'm going to keep doing it. And I'm going to bring some pressure to bear on the Legislature next session, I promise you that. And I will not break my word. I will not violate my word, because I'm making the promise to myself, and I'm the hardest taskmaster a person like me can have. I don't care what you think. I don't care what you say. But I care what I think. And I have said that's what I'm going to do. And I'm going to do it, and this is just a down payment. But let me get to the "Bible" like I said I would. And I'm going to keep track of the times that I speak, for myself. This is one time. Going to the 18th chapter of Luke...and by the way, for those people who say you shouldn't take medicine, Luke was a physician. Luke was a doctor. So you've got these people calling themselves Christians who say you shouldn't take medicine, you shouldn't take your child to a

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doctor; if your child has cancer, don't take your child for treatment... [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB276A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...if the child has encephalitis, don't take your child for treatment; if the child has appendicitis, don't take your child for treatment. But they'll wear eyeglasses, and they'll buy comfortable shoes, because adults will sacrifice those children and put them in pain, but the parents are not going to suffer it at all. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, you are next in the queue and are recognized. This is your second time. [LB276A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and I made a mark so I'll be right with you. Going to the 18th chapter of Luke, and I know this parable but I'm going to read it. And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint, saying, there was in a city a judge which feared not God, neither regarded man. And there was a widow in that city and she came unto him saying, avenge me of mine adversary, and he would not for awhile. But afterward he said within himself, though I fear not God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, hear what the unjust judge sayeth. And then this we know by memory: And shall not God avenge his own elect who cry out unto him both day and night though he bear long with them? He shall avenge them speedily. So my job is to be the avenger for the cougars. I can't restore them to life, but I can avenge their deaths. I can avenge the inappropriate killing of them. But I won't do it by killing you. All I'm killing is time and that's all we have today is time. And when I mention time, I usually go off into part of a rhyme that Edgar Allan Poe wrote: Keeping...these bells, the bells, bells, bells, bells, bells, bells, bells; And these sledges with the bells, silver bells, what a world of merriment their jingling foretells. But anyway: Keeping time, time, time in a sort of runic rhyme; With the tintinnabulation that so musically wells from the bells, bells, bells, bells, bells, bells, bells; From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells. He wrote that rhyme and the words that he used to describe various bells conveyed the sounds that those bells would make. So life has many lessons and many messages, but this scripture I intend to fulfill on behalf of those lions. I will avenge their inappropriate deaths. And you all, as I've stated, bring religion into this place and you had a preacher in here this morning telling you all what you ought to do and giving thanks for various things and people whom not everybody thinks would be worthy of thanks, which shows that there are opinions many, just as there are, based on what the "Bible" said, there are gods many, there are lords many. But it said in the beginning of this little parable that I read to you, he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint. So what did he say about how you should pray? And I want you hypocrites around here to listen. This is Matthew, the sixth

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chapter, the fifth verse: And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are--when I say "hypocrites," I'm quoting Jesus--for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet and, when thou has shut thy door, pray to thy father, which is in secret, and thy father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB276A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But ye, when ye pray, use not vain repetitions as the heathen do, for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. So when you find these people who repeat the same thing over and over, that's what the heathens do, and Jesus said don't do that. When people stand on the street corners or in the Legislative Chamber and pray, they're telling Jesus he doesn't really know what he's talking about. He told you the way to do it. So if you're not going to accept it, why should I? It's the standard that you set, not the standard that I set. I'm not in a position to judge anybody. I don't know what goes through your mind. I don't know what things you have experienced. I don't know what you've suffered in your life. I don't know any of that, so it's not for me to judge you when I don't have a basis. But this book said a tree is known by the fruit it bears. That's how you judge. [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Time. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, you are up next and this is your third time. [LB276A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I'm enjoying myself so much this morning I don't want to stop; and I'm in a position today where I don't have to stop and it is truly wonderful. But remember this: You should take the truth whenever you hear it from whomever speaks it. It's not the messenger, it's the message. If this book represents the word of God, I'm giving you that word. And you know what the parson would tell you? Do you know what the parson sitting back there will tell you? Some of you would go to the parson and say, but, Parson, he's the devil. And you know what the parson would tell you: The devil brought it but God sent it, so listen and, if it's true, accept it. But you can't do that because you're hypocrites. You talk the talk but you don't walk the walk. So here's how I judge you: I listen carefully to what you say you believe. I listen to the prayers that you have uttered over you. I listen to those of you who pray. I listen to things you say on the floor more carefully than some of you all realize. I read the things you say in the paper about being born again and you're going to follow the path of Jesus, and then I judge you by that. And Jesus said that that's how you'd be judged, by your words. If you all don't want that, don't say it. But if you say it and you bring it in here, I'm going to talk about it. Let me go to something else. You all believe in oaths. You say this is a Christian country. That's not true. It never was true, and it certainly isn't true now. Senator Brasch got you all to vote on this resolution honoring the fact that 50 or 60 years ago, however long ago it was, they put

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"in God" or "under God." Well, 60 years under God showed what can be done when I saw that anti-Semite who hates Jews go to those Jewish facilities in Overland Park, Kansas, and kill people, killed the woman, killed the grandfather, killed the grandson--thank you, Jesus--because he's a Christian. He's a Christian. That's what 60 years under God in this country has done. But that's not all it says. "One nation, under God," then, "indivisible," and this country is more divided and fractionated than it has ever been and yet you want a hypocritically stand up here and vote on a resolution and that makes everything all right. It shows the hypocrisy unless your God is as vicious as you are. That man who did those killings was made in the image of God. That's what you all say, this man was made in God's image. And if God will burn people in hell forever, then it's a little thing to kill three people. That's small. But let me go to something else. But here is what happened when they put constitutions together and laws. An oath does not necessarily mean that it has anything to do with supernatural anything. It's a point in a proceeding where you knowingly, consciously, and deliberately establish that what you say is true; and if it's not true, then you are punished for it. So that's what putting a person on his or her oath is for, to have that moment or that spot in time after which the person is bound to say truth if he or she says anything at all. But you believe in swearing. They make you swear in court. I don't do it because they know... [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB276A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I have more integrity than these so-called Christians. I won't begin reading this until I get to my closing because I don't want to have to stop in the middle. But think about all of these things that I'm telling you. If you can show that what I'm saying is untrue and I know it's untrue and am saying it to deceive you, call me what I would be, which is a liar. And all liars shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone and you don't...you know I don't want to go there, Parson, because that's where all these people are going to be. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Is anyone else wishing to speak on the motion to return to Select File? Seeing none, Senator Chambers to close. [LB276A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I'm going back to the "Bible," Matthew, the fifth chapter. And Matthew was a tax collector. He sat at the receipt of custom. He was a tax collector. So you hear from a physician; you hear from a tax collector. And the guy who wrote Revelation was like Nikko Jenkins: out of his mind. He saw things that were not there. He saw demons; he saw a great dragon; all these nonhuman creatures talking and threatening; and people being burned. But anyway, going to the 33rd verse of Matthew, and think of this the next time you want to put somebody under oath and make them swear: Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time: Thou shalt not foreswear thyself but shall perform unto the

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Lord thine oaths. That's what they were saying, like you all say. But then here's what this Jesus said, and we know he doesn't know what he's talking about: But I say unto you, Swear not at all, neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by earth, for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great king; neither shalt thou swear by thy head because thou canst not make one hair white or black. Now is...he didn't know about Lady Clairol but we excuse him for that because he can't know everything and he doesn't even know what he's talking about on this. But ye, let your communication be, yea, yea, nay, nay, for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. Ye hypocrites--this is from Matthew, the 15th chapter--well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, this people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; but in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. And what do men command you to do? Swear in the name of God, "So help you God." So what do you do? You disregard the "Bible." You put your hand on a book to swear and that book tells you, don't swear at all, fool. And then you put your hand on the book and you swear. So what are you doing? You're saying you know more than what Jesus knows. And when "Sister" Brasch brought to us that "Mississippification" of Nebraska by praising the insertion of the words "under God" into what was a loyalty oath to make it a part of a public religion, you all went along with it. And she and others will say, nobody is forced to say the pledge, nobody is made to say the pledge. But when you have children in school...and look at you all. Now you say that the peer pressure and fear pressure will not compel that child to say what all these people want that child to say. You think the parent, fearful for the welfare of his or her child, will tell the child, don't say it, don't stand up. You think they're going to say it? You think they're going to do that? How much time do I have, Mr. President? [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: You have 1:12. [LB276A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I can't finish that, so I'm going to just say a few things and then get back to this because it merits more time than I have to give it right now. [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB276A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. You all have got to be shown that what we deal with in here is legislation, not salvation. But if you're going to bring what you have and put it in the pig trough, then expect the pigs to walk on it; expect that. How am I going to respect something that you bring in here and you say it means something to you? You don't respect yourselves; you don't respect each other; you don't respect your word. Then you bring Jesus in here, you bring God in here, and I'm supposed to respect what you, who don't respect either one of them, claim to respect. Show me a thing or two; show me by your example. Senator Wallman and the Parson know it says, let your light shine so people can see your good works. That's not what you do. Thank you, Mr. President, and I will withdraw that motion. [LB276A]

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: The motion to return to Select File is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, LB276A. [LB276A]

CLERK: (Read LB276A on Final Reading.) [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of the law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB276A pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB276A]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1618.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB276A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB276A passes. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB254E, LB276, and LB276A. Mr. Clerk. [LB254E LB276 LB276A]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Cook would move to recess the body until 1:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Members, you've heard the motion to recess until 1:30 p.m. All those in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. We are recessed.

RECESS

SENATOR KRIST PRESIDING

SENATOR KRIST: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. The afternoon session is about to reconvene. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN PRESIDING

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Do you have any items for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, bills read on Final Reading this morning were presented to the Governor at 12:16 p.m. (Re LB254E, LB276, and LB276A.) That's all that I have. (Legislative Journal page 1619.) [LB254E LB276 LB276A]

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Mr. Clerk, we move to Final Reading. Members should return to their seats in preparation for Final Reading. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB383. Senator Chambers has a motion to return the bill to consider AM2944. (Legislative Journal pages 1619-20.) [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Senator Chambers, on your motion to return to Select File. [LB383]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, it's so good to be back here with you all. And for some of you this is the last day that you'll be here, so you better make the most of it. And I'm going to make it as long and lengthy as I can so you can just enjoy this last day. I have nothing against this bill. The amendment would be my mountain lion bill to prohibit the hunting of these animals. I feel like Senator Janssen is as close to being a fellow laborer in this vineyard as a person could be without actually being there. The other day he brought the offering of that mountain lion protection license plate. And it is the last day of this session. It could be the last day of our lives, for all we know. The last day of you all's lives--I'm not going anywhere for a long time. But I want him to know that I really appreciated what he tried to do and it did catch me by surprise. But I still must do what I must do. I have no objection to the bill other than my standing objection to license plate bills. But as I stated, I realize that that battle is over. The Legislature is going to continue making the license plates a billboard. So rather than fight it, maybe what I'll have to do is join it and we should find ways to make as much money as possible off these license plates. But that's what not I'm talking about here today. The other day the "General", Senator Garrett, asked me what years I was in the military, and it was so long ago I didn't realize it was as long ago as it actually was. But I couldn't recollect. And while he and I were talking I was trying to calculate when it was I graduated from high school, then graduated from college, and what year that would have been. But I couldn't calculate it that rapidly, so I sent something around today to let you all see it. And what I'm going to do since I'm just taking time, is read what I handed you all today. There is a letter that was signed by Marshal, M-a-r-s-h-a-l A. Burdick, B-u-r-d-i-c-k, Captain, Infantry; underneath that word, those two words, "Commanding." The letterhead, the heading: Company D, First Battle Group, First Brigade; then, in parenthesis, R-F-A training, Fort Ord, California. Date: 5 November 1959. Subject: Private Ernest W. Chambers. Digressing, it looks strange to my eyes to see that written in that fashion. This is sent to Commanding Officer, Company E, and that "E" is not for "Ernie," but Company E, Second Battalion, 355th Infantry Regiment. Now it's a poor car that won't toot its own horn. But I've always believed that it's unnecessary for anybody to have been in the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines, or any branch of the military to qualify that person to talk about anything in this country or out of this country that he or she chooses. You don't have to have worn a uniform. Not everybody who wore a uniform was there because they were patriotic. I certainly was not there because I was patriotic. I'm not patriotic now. I'm not patriotic to

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anything. Oh, but there's...I'd have to amend that. There is something I believe in. I believe in algebra. Here's what this letter says: On September 19...oh, it's September 15, 1959, Private Ernest W. Chambers joined this company to complete his second eight weeks of infantry training. From the first day of training he has proven himself to be an outstanding soldier. This soldier has constantly demonstrated outstanding character. Quit laughing. Continuing: He has demonstrated a willingness to learn and to get the job done, which is in keeping with the highest standards of the military service. During his second eight weeks of infantry training this company has been extremely fortunate to be able to have a soldier of Private Chambers' caliber and so...and as graduation time comes along we are indeed sorry to see this young man leave but at the same time very happy to have had him with us. It is a well-known fact in this company that when Private Chambers does something, he gives 100 percent of his mental and physical energies. This attitude toward military life is indeed most commendable. I highly recommend promotion for this soldier. I would do it myself but regulations prohibit it. Then attached to this is a replica of a paper, honorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States. This is to certify that--it's reduced--that PFC Ernest Chambers--then it gives my service number which I can't make out--was honorably discharged from the Army of the United States on the 12th day of July, 1963. This certifies...this certificate is awarded as a testimonial of honest and truthful service. And then it's signed by a ranking military person. You all didn't know I was honest and truthful, did you? Well, this is like the FDA stamp on me. I've been certified by the Army as being honest--and what's that other?--and truthful. Now you accept it, don't you? You couldn't accept it from being around me. But now that you've been told, you accept it. Does this make me anything other than what I am? Does it add to me? Does it detract from me? I went in to get in and get out as quickly as I could so I could go on to school. Nothing patriotic...oh, and then I put a little notation: Colleagues, these documents do what I was unable to do when Senator (General) Garrett asked me the years I was in the Army. I had (and have) no particular reason to recall that information. One, I was not a warrior. Two, I did my job but nothing heroic. Three, I was never overseas. Four, I never shot at anybody. Five, nobody ever shot at me. Six, I was not court-martialed (although I expressed criticism of and disagreement with much of what the military did and was about). Seven, I received an honorable discharge. As with this Legislature, I did the best I could with what I had to work with. Neither experience provides a sense of genuine fulfillment or of time well spent. Now that is being honest and that is true. So when people want to run around here and do everything for somebody just because they were in the military, don't make the mistake of thinking that you're dealing with heroes. A hero is somebody who does something way above and beyond what is expected. Nothing that you do in the military is beyond what's expected of you. So when you all do all this posturing in here and talk about honoring the veterans but you won't expand the reach of Medicaid, you won't make sure that those men and women who while in military...and maybe they were sent overseas; maybe they were in combat; maybe they shot at somebody and somebody shot at them... [LB383]

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB383]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and their mind is messed up. And a person with a messed-up mind does messed-up things. And when you step outside the law, the only thing they want to do is lock you up in a cage like an animal and treat you like an animal. I'll stop now, Mr. President, and I'm going to keep track of how many times I speak. [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, you are up next in the queue and recognized. This is your second time. [LB383]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, and I'm keeping tabs. Members of the Legislature, let me tell you one thing. When I voluntarily join an operation, I'm agreeing to do what I'm required to do. So in the evening after we've been out there puttering around maybe on bivouac or marching or shooting at targets that don't shoot back, like mountain lions, like cougars...Senator Pirsch, you protected these people and they think that you are the one who told them they ought to kill these unoffending, these reclusive, these elusive, these shy animals. They think Senator Pirsch is responsible for that. But at any rate, at the end of the day we'd all stand out there in formation and they'd play a song on the trumpet. Nobody played; they played a record. And we'd have to stand there and salute. And I saluted because what is that? I could have been saying, hi, Donald Duck, hi, Mickey Mouse, hi, Goofy, just like I'd be saying if I was in here when you all pray. But I saluted. And when a commanding officer addressed me, I said, yes, sir, and I said, no, sir. But I did not grovel and they couldn't make me grovel and they knew it and they didn't expect me to grovel because I would have been locked up before I'd do that. I gave up my freedom when I was in there but I didn't give up my manhood, I didn't give up my personhood, and I certainly didn't give up my blackness. I've been a black man everywhere I've gone, not just complexion, in my mind. I was created by white people in this country and the experiences I had in school being taught by white people who did everything they could--not all of them--to destroy me. I didn't know that at the time. All I knew was that they hurt my feelings. But after I got old enough to understand what these grown people were doing to me...and I hadn't offended against them. I was an obedient child. I "yes, ma'amed" the teacher. I "no, ma'amed" the teacher because that's what I was taught to do. But I wasn't treated reciprocally, with respect, by that teacher who was my better. So I always point out, if white people as adults hadn't treated me the way I was a child, you white adults wouldn't have a black man like me to deal with now. But now I'm here and you've got to deal with me. And when I look at the way the system operates, I know that a time will come when you'll have to deal with me on my terms, not your terms. Your rules are what put me here today. Your rules are what make it possible for me to do what I'm doing. And I know how to do it because I read your rules and I've paid attention, just like when I was in the Army I knew everything in that book that anybody could ask me to do

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or order me to do and I knew what they couldn't order me to do also. And they couldn't make me obey an invalid order and they couldn't put their hands on me and they couldn't hit me with a swagger stick when we were out there doing PT. I knew they couldn't do that. But when I told these other guys that...there were about three black guys there. These are white guys getting abused. I said, he can't do that to you. He said, well, he's doing it. I said, that's because you let him. But I do things that I believe. And if there are consequences to be borne, I will bear the consequences. If I had wound up in what they call the brig because I'm doing what I think is right, that's what it was made for and I would have done my time, not crying, not sniveling, not on my knees begging for anything, and I'm not going to cry and whine and snivel and beg for anything here. I will fight you the way you did me, 48 of you against one, although it doesn't break out that way all the time. [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB383]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But nobody else in here is going to do what I do, say what I say, because nobody else is me, nobody has had my experiences, nobody has had my kind of education. By that I meant the way I reacted to it, the way it impacted me. So they can't be me. I don't expect them to. But there are certain things that I do expect but they don't happen; and when they don't happen, my education is improved and I just have another example of what I'm dealing with. And, brothers and sisters, when time comes to deal, I will deal. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You are up next in the queue and this is your third time. [LB383]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm with you. I just marked it down. Members of the Legislature, that's a rule, too, also. And sometimes I get caught up in what I'm saying and I forget the number of times for sure that I've spoken. And everybody says time flies when you're having fun. Einstein said when somebody was asking him about his theory of relativity, could he say it quickly enough for somebody to understand it, and people don't realize Einstein had a very keen sense of humor. But this was true. He said, if you're with a beautiful woman, an hour seems like a second; if you're on a hot stove, a second seems like an hour. And that's the way it is. When you're having fun, time flies, and you'd like to be able to have fun like that on and on and on. And today, thanks to you all, I can do that and I'm going to do it. I say again though--that might give you hope--I'm closer to being 100 years old than I am to being 50 years old and I'm looking around at how tired some of you all look so you know what a man going on 100 years has to be feeling about now. And I haven't eaten or drunk anything either so I'm just going on fumes. I didn't say odors, on fumes. There are some issues that I think are very important that have to be touched on. And this whole idea of supposedly honoring veterans, when you do little-bitty, superficial things that don't mean anything, what does it mean to put on a license plate Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Purple Heart? You

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know that people get those decorations who aren't even entitled to them. All they are, are bits of metal and ribbon. But when your mind is gone, you think anybody wants to be around you? You might let spit come out of your mouth when you're talking because your teeth are rotted out. Do you think anybody wants to talk to you? Your breath smells because you don't brush your teeth; you're homeless; you're friendless; you're a nonperson; you're an unperson; you're the man and woman with no name. But when it comes to you being in the spotlight, because you're the good person, you're saying, homestead exemption, you're saying, a license plate. But do you want any of those people around you? The difference between Pope Francis and the rest of you all: He'd go down there around people like that. You know what that man did? He threw all that pontifical hypocrisy away and he washed the feet of people in a way to throw it in the face of those hypocritical cardinals, archbishops, priests, and laypeople who think the Pope is something like a god walking on earth. He got down on his hands and his knees and he washed the feet of people locked up for having committed crimes, and two or three of them were females, which is something a Pope should never do because he's supposed to be the Vicar of Christ on earth but he's not supposed to be like Christ. He's supposed to live in a palace, in a castle, even though when they talked to Jesus about that, because he was running around with the poor people, the ordinary people, the sheep and also the goats of this world, the lepers, the ones who everybody else said was unclean, he hung around with those people, and when they asked him about that, he said, they who wear fine purples are found in palaces. And Francis Assisi, he's taken those things very seriously or he ought to get an Academy Award for best actor... [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB383]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...because he pulls it off very well. And if these people who talk religion would practice one-tenth of what they talk, the world, the whole world would be a better place. And if the world would be a better place, you know what this state would be, what this city would be, what this Legislature would be. And if this Legislature were what we ought to be, then everybody in this state would benefit from it. But we know all that religious stuff is just so much rubbish, so much hoey, so much piffle. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one else wishing to speak on the return to Select File motion, Senator Chambers to close. [LB383]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, next time you want to help some veterans, you think about some of these who are what you'd call the dregs of society who are friendless. And that Jesus that you all claim to worship said, what kind of thanks are you...do if you thank those who thank you? You do good to those who do good to you, why, even the publicans do that--not Republicans--the publicans do that. And those are bad people. If they do it, then why

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are you going to say you're worthy of some kind of consideration when the worst people do what you do and you want credit for it? And that praying in this Legislature, if you're going to follow what Jesus told you to do, you'd cut that out right away. I tried to rescue you. I took the whole thing to federal court. But you insisted on throwing it back in the face of Jesus and telling him, Jesus, where do you get off telling me something like that, don't pray in public, you don't know what you're talking about, I'll pray in public and I don't care what you say. And Jesus will say, do you know who I am? And they say, the last time you said that you wound up hanging on a tree, didn't you; now you'd better find out who you messing with; you're messing with the Nebraska Legislature. And the Nebraska Legislature is going to tell Jesus where Jesus can go because even though he said, don't be praying in public, by God, by Jesus, by the devil, they are going to pray in public and tell Jesus where he can go. And you can't counteract a thing that I'm saying because I read it from your manual. I learned the military manual and I did what I was supposed to do. That's why I got a letter saying what a great guy I was, just doing what I was supposed to do, that's all, because they don't look for people to do that. So what kind of letter are you guys going to get when you go to what they call those pearly gates? You're going to be like Colonel Sanders going up there. And you know who is going to be sitting there taking the roll? A chicken, and that chicken is going to say, oh, Colonel Sanders, I presume, Colonel Sanders of chicken-frying fame. And you expect to come here. That's what will happen to you because your works will get there before you will and your works are pretty poor stuff. And it would bother me a great deal if I professed to be religious, professed to believe in God, professed to love God, all the whole family, the father, the son, and the holy ghost. You all bring it in here every morning; that's why I can talk about it now. Everything brought in here is fair game. If I professed to believe those things, I would be humiliated if somebody who I think is unfit can point the finger at me and condemn me and do it justifiably and not condemn me on the basis of his opinion but on the basis of what it is I say that I believe. You say you believe this. I didn't say you have to believe it, but I say your works show you don't believe it. Your words mean nothing. On the street they say, show me what you've got. And at the card table a point comes where they say, flip them, show me what you've got. But in here you walk around here talking those fine words and they don't mean a thing. Maybe that's where that song came from, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing, doo-wop, doo-wop, doo-wop, doo-wop, doo-wop, doo-wop." I don't mean nothing, and that's why I don't come up here. It's a waste of my time. But I'll tell you another reason I wouldn't do it. I know some people who actually profess to believe that and they act on it, and I respect what a person believes to the extent that they respect it. And I would never put down anybody or that person's belief if that person is practicing what he or she believes. [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB383]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If that person worships sticks and stones and worshipping sticks and stones causes that person to treat me right and I was convinced that the

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sticks and the stones did it, I'd put a Rock of Gibraltar and a California redwood tree in the yard of every one of these Christians and say, maybe the sticks and the stones can make you do what your Christ can't make you do. You can feel comfortable in the presence of sick children, hungry children, crazy veterans, people locked up in prison, and they're the ones Jesus told you not to forget. But you don't forget them; you say, longer sentences, harsher minimum sentences, and torture while they're there. Mr. President, I withdraw that pending motion. [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Motion to return to Select File is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB383]

CLERK: 36 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB383]

CLERK: (Read title of LB383.) [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of the law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB383 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB383]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1620-21.) 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused and not voting. [LB383]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB383 passes. We now proceed to LB383A. [LB383 LB383A]

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to return the bill for a specific amendment. (AM2945, Legislative Journal pages 1621.) [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Senator Chambers to open on your motion to return to Select File. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, for the record, this is the contents of my bill that would have taken away the authority of the Game and Parks Commission to set a hunting season for mountain lions, the only bill that was vetoed and the veto stood. If I was treated differently from everybody else, why would you not expect me to behave differently? We're all adults. We all know about give and take. And I'm going to look for some of these bills where I think there really are two subjects and I might do some legal research and just demonstrate what happens when you put two subjects in a bill. If I do the legal work myself, it won't cost me any money.

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But then I might hire a lawyer and that lawyer can get lawyer fees because I can't charge any fees for the work that I do even though it's better than what most lawyers would do. But I had started a couple of times ago talking about the Pledge of Allegiance. And it was a patriotic type of oath until 1954 when Congress put the words "under God" into that oath to show the godless communists something because they supposedly don't believe in God. But I have to digress. It's a funny thing now. Khrushchev would have to be considered godless because he was the head man. Francis Gary Powers was flying a U-2 spy plane over Russia. He was shot down. Now he had been given a cyanide capsule and it was expected that when one of these people would be facing the risk of capture you bite that capsule and do what a patriotic individual is supposed to do. But Francis Gary Powers did not do that and the Americans were in a uproar. You all don't remember this because you don't read anything, you don't pay attention to anything. But I'm sure that this guy Osborn read it because he didn't ditch that plane with all that highfalutin equipment that China got. He's a hero for doing that, but I think his attitude was...Francis Gary Powers set the precedent. He didn't kill himself, although he was excoriated for it. When I say "he," Francis Gary Powers was excoriated for it. With all of the breast beating and all the wailing and weeping and gnashing of teeth and Christians in this country asking, why didn't he do it, old, godless Khrushchev, the man who took a shoe off and pounded the table in the UN, the United Nations, he explained to the Christians why Francis Gary Powers did not take his own life. You know what Khrushchev told the Christians? Living things want to go on living, simple as that. That was a profound truth but also self-evident. The word he used was "want." There are some people who will risk their life to do something that they feel is more important than merely preserving their life, but they still want to live. Circumstances are just such that they cannot go on living and they're willing to risk that. But when the State Board of Education...and I believe Senator Scheer was on it at that time. I'd like to ask Senator Scheer a question before I proceed. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Would Senator Scheer yield? [LB383A]

SENATOR SCHEER: Yes, I will. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Scheer, were you a member of the State Board of Education when they adopted that rule where an hour or whatever the time is each morning must be set aside for the saying of the flag salute? [LB383A]

SENATOR SCHEER: Yes, I was. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. That's all I want to ask because I don't want to say something that's not true. Senator Scheer was a member of the state board when they did an end run around the Legislature. The Legislature had a bill presented where that would have been required and the Government Committee killed that bill. They didn't let it out. So the state board said, well, we don't have to worry about what the Legislature

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said, we will ignore them. So they put the rule in place. And here's what they want to say: Well, the...if a teacher has scruples against leading the pledge, the teacher doesn't have to do it. As narrow-minded as these people in Nebraska are, and especially these small towns, it's worse than Harper Valley PTA. Do you think any teacher would dare stand up and say in front of the class and to the principal and superintendent, I will not lead these children in the pledge because I don't believe in that? Nobody should be required to say a pledge, take a loyalty oath, talk about liberty. And the only thing I'm at liberty to do is what I'm compelled and coerced to do. And I've got to take an oath? But a teacher is not going to do that. They say a child is not required. The child doesn't even have to stand up. Children are bullied for less than that. Some are even talking about making bullying a crime. Children are not going to stand up alone and say, I will not say it. And the parents are not going to put their children in that situation. But you're looking at a black man who stood, went to the school--they went to Central Park--and I said, my children will not participate in that. And you know what happened? Nobody had to participate in it, nobody, because I will defend my children against anybody. I brought them into the world. It's my responsibility. And they are not going to be compelled to say anything that I don't believe they ought to say because they're in some school, and I'd like to see some adult try to make them say it. But you all are not like that. So then you know what you want to say, hypocritically? The teacher doesn't have to lead it, the child doesn't have to participate, and the parents can refuse. I call it fear pressure and peer pressure. Let me...here's a little something I wrote for my colleagues here: No, you are not only adults, but elected officials holding a powerful position which comprises the most powerful branch of tripartite system of which the Legislature is a part. You exercise plenary legislative authority, yet, you in here, you bent the knee, you bowed the head because of fear and peer pressure and you voted for that resolution because, you said, what would look like if you voted against it? You did it. If you did it, if you bowed, why do you expect the parents and the teacher and the children to be stronger than you? You're cloaked in governmental authority and power and you cannot withstand fear/peer pressure. How can these others be expected to do so, parents who are fearful for their child's safety, children who fear being bullied, a teacher fearful for his or her status in the community? You all are the fearful ones. You all are the cowards and yet you say nobody else is compelled to do it. Nobody compelled you and you've got power, so you can see how it's not like you say that nobody is forced. That pressure compels you to do things. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I think I'll be quiet. One of my colleagues is on a phone call and I don't want to interrupt him. That's the way we play around here, isn't it? Well, I'll be your even change on anything you want to bring. I've got the floor. Take it away from me. You voted for that resolution praising Congress for putting the words "under God" into the flag salute, and you know the pressure that is on people to go along with it. You cannot withstand it in here. Some of you all won't come in here Monday morning

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because you don't want to be standing here like a first-grade child, pledging allegiance to a flag, to a flag. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Time. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Smith. [LB383A]

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon, colleagues. I'm rising today...I do not want to step on Senator Chambers' toes or to show any disrespect to him this afternoon. I know he has great passion on the issue of mountain lions. Unfortunately, that issue was not resolved to Senator Chambers' liking and for that I'm truly sorry, Senator Chambers. He knows my position on it. We've had conversation on it. I've defended him on the floor of the Legislature, so I'm not going to go into that any further at this time. I would like to take a few minutes, Mr. President, to recognize one of my colleagues that's leaving. If we're going to spend some time this afternoon, I'd like to spend some time recognizing the 17 that are leaving. This is an article that was written by the Unicameral Update, January 26, 2007. It was our first introduction to Senator Bill Avery, and so I'm going to conclude with the story that was written at that time. It's no accident that a visit to Senator Bill Avery's office feels like a visit to the office of a longtime college professor. The rows of political science textbooks give him away. "I probably have 5,000 books," estimated the former professor of 32 years. "I brought some with me because I felt lonely without books in my office." Avery said his career as a political science professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he taught U.S. foreign policy, political economy, and American politics to thousands of young people, led naturally to his run for office. "I consider that a form of public service," he said. "My decision to run for office was an extension of that." Having been involved in Common Cause Nebraska, a nonprofit advocacy organization that encourages open government and citizen participation in democracy, Avery has been pleased with his initial experiences as a state senator. "I think this is an absolutely fantastic, unique institution," he said. "I love how open and accountable it is." He has found the Legislature's nonpartisanship to be a reality and hopes that the nonpartisanship can be sustained as term limits are implemented. Remember, that was in 2007. The policies should remain priority, he said, and the politics should never trump the policy. While he expected to be busy, "the frantic pace of my daily life was a bit of a surprise," he said. He said the senators' constant "to-ing and fro-ing" was ironic, considering the slow pace at which legislation moves through the system. Avery's interest in politics started early. "I read the politics page before I ever turned to the comics," he recalled. What a sick individual--now that was my own editorial, colleagues. (Laughter) Originally from North Carolina, Avery is the son of an evangelical minister, so his family moved around a lot. And Senator Avery, I learned very early on, we both have a mutual like and love for southern gospel music. So if you want to listen to any of his gospel music, he probably has some in his office. "The longest I've spent in one place was five years. I always was the new kid"...on the block--not today, Senator Avery. His father's work as a minister taught him the importance of giving of oneself to others and devoting one's work to the people. He credits his experience with teaching him to adapt, make friends, and develop

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the people skills that he hopes will serve him well in the...as a legislator. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB383A]

SENATOR SMITH: After serving in the Air Force on the GI Bill, he earned his master's degree from the University of Tennessee and Ph.D. from Tulane University. He moved to Nebraska. He is a Nebraskan by choice. But Avery is no bookish professor sequestered away in his office. He likes to bike, to fish, to downhill ski, to waterski, to boogie board, and we can tell all of that by his athletic build. (Laughter) But, Senator Avery, we wish you all the best. You've been a fantastic senator. You've served the state of Nebraska well. It's been a great pleasure. Thank you. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator McCoy, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR McCOY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise this afternoon, as Senator Smith just did, to talk about another one of the senators who's been here eight years that is departing. It may come to surprise to some, but I chose to talk this afternoon about Senator Karpisek. And (laughter) as there are chuckles throughout the Chamber. You know, I talk a lot about, and I think we all do, I love our Unicameral, every bit of it. There are good days and there are days that aren't as fun as others. But it is an honor for all of us to be here and for the last six years somewhere not too far away has been Senator Karpisek to where I reside on the floor. And his eight years has been spent, six of them as Chair of General Affairs Committee, and we've butted heads a number of times, as he will testify. But he is a fierce defender of what he believes in and he has spent eight years representing his district very, very well and should be proud of his time in the Legislature. You know, it's...ideologies or differences of opinions aside, I can appreciate anyone who is willing to stand up and defend what they believe in and what they believe is best as a matter of policy or otherwise. You know, we've found many things to agree on. He's been in small business and so have I. You know, he used to joke when I first came into the Legislature six years ago about owning a butcher shop and that making laws down here was awful similar to making sausage, and that is true. And I've admired his stand and while we haven't always agreed, the beauty of the Unicameral is we don't have to always agree to still respect each other as people and as colleagues. And so I will say, Senator Karpisek, thank you for your time in the Legislature and you will be missed. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator McCoy. Senator Chambers, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, my elegy is for the mountain lions. But I think it is good for those to give honor and respect to each other while they are alive because too often you hold those things until after

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somebody croaks, then it's of no value whatsoever. So if you say those things and you mean them, those who are the recipients maybe should feel fortunate, maybe not, I don't know. But I sure didn't know all that about Senator Avery. But since the subject was brought up, I'd like to ask Senator Avery a question or two on point. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Senator Avery, would you yield? [LB383A]

SENATOR AVERY: Yes. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Avery, I've never said that in my dealing on this issue that I made a deal with the devil, so I'm not going to say that, use that terminology. But you're one of the parties with whom the deal was struck, is that correct? [LB383A]

SENATOR AVERY: That is correct. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Have I wavered from what I promised at all? [LB383A]

SENATOR AVERY: Not one iota. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But did I tell you that there were times when I saw that low-hanging fruit and the temptation was there? [LB383A]

SENATOR AVERY: I knew it. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I fought off that temptation, didn't I? [LB383A]

SENATOR AVERY: Yes, you did. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And Game and Parks got what they wanted, didn't they? [LB383A]

SENATOR AVERY: Yes, and more. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And even had a veto override, is that true? [LB383A]

SENATOR AVERY: Yes. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I got...the thing that I wanted was snatched from me. Is that true? [LB383A]

SENATOR AVERY: I witnessed that with a great deal of chagrin. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And would you be able with all of the accolades that Senator

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Smith gave you...understand that I would not react to that in a way that could be considered collegial? [LB383A]

SENATOR AVERY: I'm not sure I understand your question. You know I wrote that piece for Senator Smith. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are aware that I would have a negative reaction to that? [LB383A]

SENATOR AVERY: I don't know. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Avery. (Laugh) Up until that answer, I thought of him as an honest man, especially after what Senator Smith said. But here's what I'm getting to: I'm reacting very negatively to it. I saw a movie. It was based on a line from Shakespeare. The part that they put was "Something wicked this way comes," but it was, "By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes." And I think that...I'm trying to remember who wrote the book that it was based on. But it had to do with this town where people came, wicked people, in the autumn. They were The Autumn People or something and bad things happened when they came. And there was a man named Mr. Dark. He spoke with an English accent. He wore a top hat like Abraham Lincoln. He wore black clothes and he had some very good lines to deliver. And he had a little encounter with a librarian and that librarian was played by Jason Robards. So when they were having this little set-to, Mr. Dark was telling Jason Robards that he could get his youth back, because he was having trouble keeping up with his young son. His heart would beat; he'd get tired. He said, now if you would work something out with me, you could get...you could go back to when you were...maybe he started at 30, and the man wouldn't go for it so he tore a page out of the book. He said, 40. No. He tore a page...tore the pages out of the book. And Jason Robards would never agree to it and finally Mr. Dark got angry and he threw the book at him. And Jason Robards fell on the floor, panting and gasping. There was this real beautiful woman... [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and she worked with Robards, but that was an exterior. She really was a hideous person when she wasn't in that appearance. So he told this lady...and I'll tell you what he told her next time I'm recognized. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Those wishing to speak yet, we have Senator Nordquist, Seiler, Cook, Gloor, Brasch, Hadley, Schilz and Chambers, Ken Haar, and Bolz. Senator Nordquist, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

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SENATOR NORDQUIST: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I have the honor of talking about my seatmate to my far left, as he always has been since I came into the Chamber, Senator Pirsch. As you all know and the story from the Unicameral Update says that when he came for the senator swearing in, it certainly wasn't his first time doing that. He talks about remembering coming in with his mom during the senator swearing ins when she served in the body. He says he remembers being excited about exploring the Capitol that day. He said I was just awed and overwhelmed by the grandeur of the building and the hustle and bustle of it and the size of the ice cream chest in the back room (laughter), maybe not that, maybe not that but he says growing up with his mom, who was a state senator, fostered his interest in government, which he studied at the University of Virginia. He went to work in Washington, D.C., at the White House on Capitol Hill for a congressman and was an intern at the U.S. Department of Commerce. After that, he returned to Omaha to join the family food sales business and attend law school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He worked as a criminal prosecutor in the city of Omaha for ten years and served as a member of the Nebraska Crime Commission. But it was through those experiences that Pete says that he ultimately ended up deciding to run for office. In running a family business and being a prosecutor, he learned things that...learned that things weren't always the way they should be, and that was why Pete ultimately ran for office. Which a side note from the story here, in 2006 I actually ran the race against Pete, one of us primary opponents--interesting race. It also included Kerry Winterer so it's kind of funny how we've all come around eight years, more than eight years later now. But Pete certainly is somebody sitting next to him for my six years here has demonstrated a willingness to always look and search for the right thing to do on the policies that are before us. And he's certainly always good, too, as many of you maybe have experienced, for a good laugh. But his lightheartedness but yet his seriousness when it comes to policymaking is certainly going to be missed in this body. Thank you. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Nordquist. Senator Seiler, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR SEILER: Lieutenant Governor, colleagues, it's my pleasure to rise to honor Senator Brad Ashford from District 20. Brad was elected to the Legislature in 1986, reelected in 1990, 2006 and 2010. He was born on November 10, 1949, in Omaha; graduated from Westside. He got his degree from Colgate in 1971, and his law degree from Creighton University in 1974. As I understand it, though I haven't had the pleasure of meeting her, the best decision Brad has ever made was marrying Ann Ferlic and having three children: John, Ellie and Tom. His occupation is attorney and businessman. He has a list of credentials of serving on memberships and boards; founding member of MECA; the bar associations he's been active in. He leaves a real mark. I can take you back to about two sessions ago when Brad came up with the idea of truancy needed to be addressed. And he really does study a subject. Not long ago we were talking about prison reform, which I'll get to in a minute, and he said, well,

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yeah, he said, I went to Washington and visited that facility and I've been to Minnesota and talked to those people and I've been to Boston. How many of you on the committee has done that? That's just outstanding contribution and research by Brad. Truancy right now if you follow it, if you follow it, the numbers and everything show a tremendous success, tremendous success. Graduations are going up. Truancy is going down by the numbers, not just little dips but big numbers. I have visited with the three county attorneys around me out in Hastings and they really like the program. They think it's working well. It's been tweaked a little bit to their satisfaction. Juvenile justice--we're going to see great results from his work on that. It will take a couple of years but just like truancy, we're looking back over two years, you're going to see a tremendous benefit from that. Prison reform which bill was passed this year is going to have significant increase on...or impact, excuse me, on retention and overcrowding. It's just bound to, and much more. Senators, let's give Brad a big hand. Thank you. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Seiler. Senator Cook, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon, colleagues. I rise to honor my friend and esteemed colleague, Senator Danielle Conrad. And for the first part of my presentation, I'm going to stick with the article so as not to get on a bunny trail that might get a little bit emotional ahead of time. As a nine-year-old, she became enthralled in the Nebraska gubernatorial race. Kay Orr was running against Helen Boosalis in a historic campaign that captured the imagination of a little girl living in rural Seward County. I just scoured the papers and tried to read them as much as I could, Conrad said of the candidates. She even traveled to Boosalis' campaign office in Lincoln to gather yard signs, which she quickly distributed along the country roads near her home. From that first campaign, I've been in love with politics, Conrad said. Her disappointment with the outcome of that race did nothing to quell her interest in politics. In fact, after the election Conrad was shopping with her mother at Miller&Paine, who remembers Miller&Paine, Department Store in Lincoln when she was Boosalis a few aisles over. I was so star struck and probably speechless for the first and last time in my life, Conrad said laughing. Her mother visited with Boosalis, who soon agreed to come to Conrad's country school in Staplehurst and talk about politics and current events with the children. And Senator Conrad shared a photograph of that presentation. She's wearing a little white dress that her mother made for her for that occasion. It is very fetching. That began a lifelong friendship between Boosalis and Conrad. Recently Conrad received--and when they say recently this is dated January 26, 2007--recently Conrad received a package of old correspondences between the two women. One letter from Conrad to Boosalis included a friendship bracelet and this note: P.S. What do you think about crime? (Laughter) Conrad went on to graduate from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 2003, and for the past five years has been working for Nebraska Appleseed as a public policy attorney. She has a strong interest in the issues that affect working families, and we've all had the opportunity to see that in our service

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with her. The law is really the great equalizer, she said. She attributes her strong sense of service to her parents who have always been involved in the community. Her mother is a teacher and her father has been a deputy county sheriff for 25 years. Conrad particularly remembers her mother taking cereal boxes to school for children who hadn't eaten breakfast. Another thing she learned from her family is an affinity for outdoor activities, especially fishing, Senator Pirsch. You get away from the cell phones and the Blackberrys and everything and just enjoy the inherent beauty of our Nebraska landscape she said. Although being a senator may cut down on her fishing trips, and I'm sure it did, Conrad said it's a trade-off she's very willing to make. I get up each day and I love my job. And I would like to say that I have absolutely loved the opportunity to be able to serve with Senator Conrad. She has shown such great courage, not only in the bills that she chooses to introduce, but in the voracity with which she fights for them. And I want to carry that forward in my continued service. She's been a fantastic example for all of us in terms of how she advocates on behalf of those who don't have anyone ordinarily to advocate for them. So thank you, Mr. President. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Cook. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Gloor, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Mr. President. Thirty some years ago when I was in my late 20s, I had a job in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. And on my board of this health planning entity was a gentleman named Dr. John Harms, who everyone deferred to, including me, because I knew if Dr. Harms was supportive of the initiatives we were talking about, we were headed down the right path. Imagine my pleasure to find out when I came to the Legislature I would be serving with Dr. Harms and my honor to be able to say a few words about him that I am taking from the Update, legislative Update back in '07. As a young person, Senator John Harms said he spent summers outside hunting, fishing, playing sports. Sun would turn his skin a deep shade of brown. And therefore at the grocery store where he worked during the summer, migrant workers from Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries would speak to him in Spanish, thinking he was able to understand. Although he didn't understand their language, Harms said he understood what it meant to be different in a small community. The son of a Greek immigrant, Harms said he'd always been taught to accept people for who they are, not what they are. Experiencing discrimination because of his ethnicity was surprising to him at first, he said. It always took me aback, Harms said. It's given me a whole different perspective. And I think we would agree that it's given him the right perspective. It goes on to talk about him having a love of cooking, due to his father who ran a restaurant in Morrill, Nebraska. I believe, Senator Harms, that's a suburb of Henry as I recall my western Nebraska experiences. And had we known, of course, that he had such a love of cooking, I think we could have put him to work a number of evenings that we've been here. That's our lost opportunity. His own desire to experience new things extends beyond the kitchen. With a doctorate in higher education, Harms has spent much of his life learning new things. There's some level of excitement in constantly learning, he

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said, and obviously we've been the beneficiary of that also. Senator Harms served in administrative positions at several Nebraska community colleges, started his career as a director of housing and financial aid at Chadron State College; later became dean of students, the dean of instruction at Norfolk Junior College, now Northeast Community College; and served as president of McCook Community College; and before he came to the Legislature was president of Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff where I knew him for 30 years. Before that, he taught at Gering High School for three years. All this experience led him to pursue more education because he wanted to be able to play a more active role in changing education policy. His love of learning didn't develop right away. He said he used to get into a fair amount of trouble at school growing up. But in a small community he didn't get away with it much because he had to answer when he came home to his mother. This is hard for me to believe, Senator Harms, absolutely hard for me to believe. Harms said his favorite academic subject back in those days was biology, but he still enjoys teaching his grandchildren about the plants and animals they see. Any extra time he has with...he and his wife Pat have they spend with their grandchildren and consider it time well spent. He'll certainly have more time to be able to do that. Members, I know you know this, but I'd reiterate it. Senator Harms leaves us with a wonderful legacy of planning. He has had a passion for making sure because of term limits that we develop a state legislative plan. I know he expects us to carry forward with that and we should. It's an important thing for us to do. It's an important legacy that I hope continues for years and years and years to come, not just because he's left it with us but because it's the right sort of thing for him to leave with us. I will be sorry to see Senator Harms go. There are a number of people, senators who are leaving I respect as much as John Harms. There's nobody I respect any more. Thank you. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Gloor. Senator Brasch, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR BRASCH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, and thank you, colleagues. It is my privilege and my honor to recognize and thank our colleague, Senator Carlson, for his eight years of service and his leadership. And looking back at his first article, it starts out that Senator Tom Carlson loves Southern Baptist gospel music. And his favorite group is the Signature Sound Quartet. He can remember singing with his mother as a child. She had him take piano lessons. Senator Carlson says, I wish I'd have continued that but at the time I was more concerned about when the lesson would be over so I could go play ball, he said laughing. His love of sports continued throughout his childhood and into his adulthood. As a professor at Taylor University in Indiana, Carlson also coached football and baseball. And even now in the Legislature, Carlson said he still keeps a sportsman's mind-set. In the Legislature, every day is a new ball game; and at the end of the day, you hope the people of Nebraska are the winners, he said. You can't predict what's going to happen on any given bill. The Legislature is a whole new ball game for Carlson who said he'd never been to a committee hearing until

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his first year session started. His favorite part, Carlson said, is when meaningful debate leads to positive results. Whenever you feel like you've had an influence on making something happen that's good for all Nebraskans, that's very satisfying, he said. Serving in the Legislature, Carlson said, has provided him a way to give back. It's a way of repaying the people of Nebraska for being so good to me. Carlson grew up on a farm about 15 miles north of Holdrege. I had the privilege of growing up in a wonderful family, he said. After high school, Carlson attended the University of Northern Colorado for both his bachelor's and master's degree. And then he received his Ph.D. in education from the University of Iowa. He is a financial advisor in Holdrege where he served on the local school board for eight years. His education included an emphasis on statistics and research methods, which he has said served him well in the Legislature. It's been helpful to me down here, Carlson said. I'm kind of looked at as a numbers guy. Carlson and his wife Margo, of 43 plus 8 years now, have three children: Chad, Erin, and Nathan. Chad and his wife Amanda live in Des Moines where Chad is in sports medicine; Erin works in Chicago at a law firm; and Nathan works and lives in Holdrege. Margo was a speech pathologist for 40 years. She's now retired. The Carlsons very much enjoy spending time with their grandchildren. And I wanted to add that as a new senator here four years ago I was very impressed with--he was then Chairman of Agriculture--how when individuals came in to sit in front of that horseshoe with eight people looking at them and he would see adult grown men twice the size of most other men trembling in that seat, he would always tell them to be comfortable and he'd make a little joke with him, and he'd work so hard to make people feel comfortable. And he did that with the new class then, which I was part of. And as his Vice Chair in Natural Resources, I see he has continued that, making people feel comfortable and confident and welcome in the Legislature. And it is an honor to thank him and wish him, "Parson" Carlson, God speed. Thank you, colleagues. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Brasch. Senator Hadley, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR HADLEY: Mr. President and members of the body, it's a real privilege to spend a few minutes talking about basically our leader, Senator Greg Adams, Speaker of the Unicameral. That little piece on the top of his nametag says it all. He's the Speaker. He's the one that has to work with us, and that can be a very difficult job. To have an institution where you have 48 other senators who think they can do the job better than you, makes it really tough to work. And it is tough. There are three ways to become a dictator. You can be a dictator by being a teacher, take over a country, or be a captain of a ship. Being the Speaker of the Nebraska Unicameral is not the way you can be a dictator. Forty-nine other state legislatures, the Speaker can be a dictator. You cross the Speaker, you find your desk out in the hall. You cross the speaker, you're no longer a Chair of a committee. You cross the Speaker, you get no money for reelection. You cross the Speaker, your bills never come up. Senator Adams has to lead through working with us, understanding 48 other individuals who have strong opinions and try to

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mesh those into a cohesive unit to do the work of the state. And I think he's done an outstanding job of that. I went back and I could read you a lot of things, but something struck me. So often it's easy to talk the talk, but not walk the walk. Senator Adams was basically a social studies teacher, taught government, and he decided that maybe he ought to see what it was like to get involved in it rather than just teaching about it. And he did it as a member of the City Council of York, an outstanding mayor of York, came to the Legislature, four years as Chair of the Education Committee. Probably during those four years he knew more about TEEOSA funding than any of us here. And he did an outstanding job. I went back and I found an article that was of the first day when he was elected as Speaker and he set out his goals. And I think you will find that he met all of them. The first one: Adams promised to pursue an agenda of a fairness above all else. I think he's been fair to everybody in this body. He has not been biased for or against anybody. He has bent over backwards to be fair. He also promised to work on making good policy. I think he tells us when we're working on good policy and when we're working on things that maybe aren't quite as good. Three, and I think this is so important and I hope we don't lose it because of term limits, protecting the Legislature as an institution. We're the third branch of government. We take a backseat to no one. We are the third branch. Forty-nine of us work together for the best for the state of Nebraska, and Senator Adams is our leader in doing that. And I hope we do not ever lose sight of this body as an institution with a great background, and we need to keep that background in mind as we move forward. Number four, helping his colleagues to be the best senators they can be. The door is open, he helps us, talks to us about what we can do to make legislation better, treats people fairly. You know, I think he has done an outstanding job, and it is a difficult job. I can think of no better role model as a senator, as a Speaker, and as a person than Speaker Greg Adams. Thank you. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Hadley. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, as an old song says, Back to the Madison, but it is good to hear people speak well of others while those persons can hear it. I don't have a lot to say that's well speaking about anybody right now because I've got mountain lions on the brain. That's what I see all the time. That's what I think about all the time. And I couldn't believe that things would turn out this session in the way that they did in terms of my inability to show people that a precious treasure of this state was being annihilated and for fear of hunters, hunting organizations, Cabela's, they would not protect that resource. As long as I've been in this Legislature, I should be beyond the point of being surprised. But this seemed so evident and obvious to me until I began to think. When you have people who kill animals for a living, routinely for sport as they call it, they trap them, they treat them cruelly, they track them down with dogs, they'll turn dogs loose on a coyote that can't defend itself, then I shouldn't be surprised at all. I can't say I'm disappointed because I've been in this Legislature too long to be disappointed in the ordinary sense of that word. But if I make it very shallow and superficial where you

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would look for certain things out of people and they don't come through, then that could be a form of disappointment, but not in the sense of having really relied on them because people are weak. People who go into politics many times are weak. They get into politics, cheesing up to people, making promises that they know will not be kept, trying to please everybody when a youngster named Ricky Nelson, who died in a plane crash, had sung a song about a garden party, and he said, you can't please everyone so you've got to please yourself. If people would tell me that my principles won't let me do this or do that, that's one thing. But to say I just got afraid, that's something else. But we all conduct our business in the way we think we should. But back to what I was telling you about this movie, Mr. Dark had this very beautiful woman come in and he told this woman to take this guy's hand and give him a taste of death so that he would recognize the real thing when it came. So she took his hand and she started waving her hand slowly over his chest and telling him that his heart was slowing down, his pulse was slowing down, everything was slowing down and he was just about to leave this earth, then she left him alone. I'm giving a sample and a taste of it so you'll know it when it comes. And it will come next session. And you know why I'm taking today? To show you that ceremonies don't mean anything to me. When I think something out to be done and it's not done... [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: One minute. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...it's my belief, not everybody's, but I believe what I believe and I will fight hard for it. And as that thing that I read said by Churchill, won't surrender, will be relentless and that's what I intend to do. Tomorrow is another day. Everything that happens today will be forgotten. While you're going through it, it seems like something. It doesn't amount to a hill of beans, none of it. It's transitory. And you all should know that by now. But if you don't, it's good to become aware of it. But whatever else you don't become aware of, I want you to know that I mean what I say, that I'm going to bring this issue back next year and the year after and the year after. And you all can't, like a sergeant told me, you can't make it as hard on me as I can make it on you because some guys were messing up when we'd be marching. You can't make it as hard on me as I can make it on you. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Time. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Senator Ken Haar, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR HAAR: Mr. President, members of the body, it has been an honor to serve with Senator Amanda McGill. And reading from the journal entry from 2007 it says it was a late decision to enter the race for the 26th District seat so how exactly did the

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27-year-old, former broadcast journalist end up as a Nebraska state lawmaker? Well, if she was 27 years old, 8 years...that makes you 32. That's great (laugh). I was a math major so I know (laughter). Just a few things from this. Her first job apparently was in Sioux City as a reporter and professional broadcasting, KCAU-TV in Sioux City. And then this is what really got you interested in government and it says here "It reinvigorated how much I love politics and government in the first place." Then she went to the big city. She came to Lincoln to KOLN/KGIN-TV, and in this area then she finally decided in November 2006 she ran...or I'm sorry, in 2006 she ran for the Legislature and was elected in November as the youngest member of a historic class of 22 new Nebraska lawmakers. Wow, 22 at the time. She listed at that time particular interest as World War II, is that still a...still an interest, okay. Science fiction and action movies, that's kind of like the Legislature--science fiction--and action at times. And Senator McGill has just been so involved in the community and her issues have been so good. And so I called down to your office and asked for some of those. Of course Amanda has been Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee. Her interests have been things like children and families, standing up for women, human trafficking where she is actually now a national spokesperson, mental health leadership during the safe haven crisis of 2008, taking on legislation that beats the odds and you did that often, working three jobs, only three jobs (laugh). I'm not sure if that's a legislative record or not--3 jobs to make a go of it. Domestic violence issues, child welfare, young adults aging out of foster care, work on the Judiciary Committee and, of course, chairing Urban Affairs. And then I have to relate one very personal event. As you all know, the lobbyists throw an event for the Republicans and then another one for the Democrats. And at one of the first ones that was thrown for the Democrats, it was on my birthday, March 10, it happened to be. And Senator McGill sang Happy Birthday, Marilyn Monroe style, to me (laughter). And being just a person right there in front of my wife, I asked Senator McGill to marry me (laugh) and, of course, she declined. I'm way too old, I guess (laugh). So actually, and I feel great hope for the future when I see young politicians and young citizens like Senator McGill involved in the process of making our state and our nation better. And I appreciate that so much. So good luck in your upcoming marriage, your upcoming election, and we will miss you greatly. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Next up in the queue is Senator Bolz. [LB383A]

SENATOR BOLZ: Thank you, Mr. President. It's my honor to recognize Senator Norm Wallman. Senator Wallman was born in Gage County, graduated from Cortland High School, and continues to serve that community today. And he has served that community through military service with the National Guard, as a member of the Norris School Board, as a member of the American Legion Post and as a member of the Lutheran Church, in addition to his service at the Legislature. I first started working with Senator Wallman on an issue related to feeding kids in the summertime. It was unconscionable to Senator Wallman that there were kids who were going hungry when they were out of school. And he persistently and diligently and unquestioningly pushed

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that bill forward, made it his priority and saw it pass. Now more kids are fed in the summertime because of our own Norm Wallman. And that's typical Norm. Norm is the kind of person who never forgets to listen to both his head and his heart. He will fight for what he thinks is right with his words, with his actions, and generally with a twinkle in his eye. Norm has sat literally over my shoulder for my first two years in the Nebraska Unicameral. And Nebraska is well served by him because he unwaveringly does what's right for the agribusiness community, for the education community, and for the people that he represents in southeast Nebraska. Some of us will remember Norm every time someone calls the question (laughter). But, Norm, I will remember you because I know that your answer will always be to listen to your conscience and listen to your constituents. And what I will say in summary is that, Norm, I think it's fair to assume that I speak for everyone then when I say we're proud to be all of your friends, Norm. We're proud to call you friend. Thank you for your service. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Bolz. Senator Coash, you are up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. You never know what kind of person that you're going to become friends with when you come down to a place like this. And I want to tell you about a guy that I've served with for six years. When I first got down here, I was put on the Judiciary Committee and they sat me next to this guy, and it was my first introduction to him. And I thought how did the Texas Legislature find itself in Nebraska. They sat me next to Mark Christensen, and this guy talks about guns and water more than I have heard anybody talk about two things in my whole life. And you might think that all he cares about is guns and water because all he talks about is a box full of guns, but that's not true. You should go look at Mark's desk. He's got a whole pile of pictures there of his family and that's because the most important thing to Senator Christensen is his family. His wife and his children mean everything to him, and he'll drive ten hours in one day just to go to a quick baseball game because that's what he does. He's a family man. And it keeps him busy, his wife Kathy and him. I think there's seven kids at last count, but these are the most important people in his life. It's Erica, Emilee, Steven, Isaiah, Ryelee, Brooklyn, and Malachi. I've learned a lot from serving with Mark. He taught me a saying which has just carried me for a long time and it's "happy wife, happy life" and that's been a savior for me and I thank him for that lesson. My son saw him on TV last night at a bill signing and he said, hey, Dad, look. There's Mark. I said yeah, there's Mark. My son said, I like him. And I thought, well, that makes sense. You guys are a lot alike but (laughter). You know, I asked my wife, I said, what does he say when Dad comes on TV? And the answer was, well, he has to change it to cartoons (laughter). Mark's made an impression on him and me and that's the way he is. He connects with children probably because he is a big kid. And he's my friend and it's been an honor to serve with him and I will miss him. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB383A]

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Coash. Senator Sullivan, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. I think it's appropriate actually this discussion that we've been listening to about mountain lions is included in my remarks that I have about our colleague, Senator Dubas. She's a farmer and a rancher so she knows it's well within her legal rights if a mountain lion were near her herd of cattle that she could protect those cattle, maybe even shoot that mountain lion. I suspect, though, that Senator Dubas' first reaction would be to protect the herd and maybe bring them into the corral or, at the very least, ride herd on them if it took all night to do that to protect those cows and calves. That's her nature. She protects what she owns. She protects what she believes in. She protects what she has, her family. You know, when she first came down here I think she probably had only about one or two grandchildren. I think she now has 11 of them. Four of them are in this Chamber today with her daughter Deanna and her two sets of twins. And Senator Dubas is very proud of them. But she's applied that protection not only to her occupation as a farmer and a rancher and certainly her family, but all the issues that she's taken on in this Legislature, all the way from the bill that she constantly introduced every year that she was here that finally came to fruition that exempts ag repair and replacement parts from sales tax. She's urged the body to look at the concerns of child welfare, and she will continue at that this summer as she works with ACCESSNebraska in trying to make that better. And true to her responsibility as Chair of the Transportation Committee, she worked doggedly on an unsuccessful bid to do bonding for roads. You know, she has brought to this body such versatility and background because she grew up in Omaha, but she was 16 years old when she moved to Fullerton and married her childhood sweetheart and became a farmer and a rancher. So she's brought that versatility to this body. And now as she leaves it, she told me the other day, you know, she is going on to better and brighter things, but she went through a job interview. And she said, I've never been through a job interview before. And I wanted to say, you know, Senator Dubas, you went through a job interview when you accepted that marriage proposal of Ron Dubas for a job that was requiring you to be multidimensional, to live with it 24/7, to be flexible, and on-call all the time. Sounds like the job of being a state senator. So you accepted that call to be a farmer and a rancher. You accepted the call to be a great senator who's been a mentor to me. Who even though we lived only 15 miles apart now has become a good friend to me of the last eight years and will become a lifelong friend. You have been a great state senator. We thank you for your service. And I guess all I have to say is a favorite phrase of mine, well done, good and faithful servant, well done. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Sullivan. Senator Krist, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good afternoon, colleagues; good afternoon, Nebraska. I have the great honor of saying a few words about my

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brother from separate mothers, Senator Steve Lathrop. We're born just a few days apart so we're both getting old. Steve, on the...during the interview when he first got here, loved what he was doing being a soccer coach for his daughters because it helped him meet his daughters' friends. And that tells you what kind of person Steve is: a family guy who always wanted to know where they were and that they were well. Anybody who spends that kind of money for horses can't be a bad dad. His interests, however, go beyond spectator sports. He said he looked forward to annual ski trips with his daughters and working on his golf game. Every February he tries to go somewhere warm to go scuba diving and escape the cold weather. I quote Steve now here in the article: I try to do that once a year but this legislative gig is interfering with my scuba diving. Senator Lathrop, judging by your tan every February since I've known you, I don't think that's true (laughter). He grew up as one of nine children in the Benson area; that's north Omaha area, and he attended Archbishop Rummel. Archbishop Rummel is now called Roncalli. That's where all the guys who couldn't get into Prep went (laughter). His father's career was in law and Steve was inspired in seventh grade to make it a family tradition, as were some of his brothers. It is a family tradition he said, adding he still enjoys practicing law after 25 years, now with additional 8 that would be 33. His siblings are now scattered around the country and Canada and I quote, but they are still getting together for a family reunion every summer in Minnesota where they rent cabins and catch up and spend time together. He credits their help, his siblings' help, in part for a successful campaign in the 12th Legislative District seat. They all came back to Omaha to knock on doors with me throughout the district and tell people how their brother would make a great state senator and, sir, you are. Since he won by only 14 votes, that's 1-4, Lathrop said every person who voted for him and helped in his campaign made the difference. And I quote Steve: Every vote matters and I'm a poster child for that saying. It may sound crazy, but it's really an honor to serve. Steve, I think if I had to pick one thing that I know about you in serving with you that has made all the difference in the world and to this body it's your service in the BSDC Special Committee. Your work and the committee's work under your guidance speaks volumes for your conviction, your conviction to defend those who sometimes oftentimes do not have a voice of your own. Sir, you will be missed. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Krist. Senator Campbell, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. President. You know, colleagues, this is a special day and it's really a day that should be about the 17 people. And particularly I know that they would say, and about the people who sit surrounding us, their families, and their children. The person that I'm going to talk about today exemplifies what I think is the best part about serving in the Nebraska Legislature and that is the people you meet and the other 48 people you work with every day. You get to the point where you look forward to seeing those 48 people and then you kind of look forward to maybe not seeing them for a while (laughter). But this gentleman exemplifies the headline to the

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story written about him and the headline was: Wightman Goes the Distance to Public Service. It certainly is an honor to talk about John Wightman. I want to tell you a little bit about his biography and then some personal reflections. He was born October 2, 1938, in North Platte; and he is a graduate of Sumner High School, Kearney State College, and the University of Nebraska School of Law. He is married to Janet. They have three children: John, Jeffrey, and Jill. His occupation, as you all well know, is an attorney in Wightman Law Office. He's been a member of the Dawson Area Development Board of Directors, the Lexington Community Foundation, the Dawson County Bar Association, the Nebraska Bar Association, the Lexington Chamber of Commerce. He served on the Lexington Planning Commission and the Lexington City Council and the Lexington Council of Economic Development. And the article about Senator Wightman talked about how much he enjoyed walking. And what you all need to know is that I think Senator Wightman has had three knees or four knees replaced. I've sort of lost count. But Senator Wightman and I used to talk about knee replacements quite a bit and we shared that. In his article, he also talked about his granddaughters. And for the years I've known him, they have been constant guests here at the Legislature. And they will be introduced and then Senator Wightman will walk over and introduce them to you. They've been such a part of his life. He talks about public service starting with his father who served on the school board and how much a part of the life...his life that is and how important it has been to look at people getting good service for the money that we appropriate here. And, of course, he was a natural to serve on the Appropriations Committee. Senator Wightman is a fighter. Not only did he go through numerous bouts on his knees, but he suffered a stroke. And I still remember the day he came back into the Legislature and sat way in the back. And we are so glad that he fought through all of that to remain and stay a state senator. It's been such a privilege to watch him as the Chairman of the Exec Board. He is a man of principle, a man of wisdom, a gentle man of good humor. He is a man of his word. And in fact when I went to thank him about a vote that he had given, I said, well, Senator Wightman, maybe I'll have a candy bar for you at some point. And he goes, oh, no, no, no, that was fine, I gave you my word. That is Senator Wightman. His integrity is unquestioned. And few people will come to this body with the integrity that he has. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Campbell. Senator Murante, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR MURANTE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, good afternoon. When we were going around selecting the members which we would recognize, it was a difficult choice for me. As many of you know, I worked for Senator Nelson so he was an obvious pick. Senator McGill and I established a very good rapport on the Urban Affairs Committee, and she was a person who I seriously considered. But at the end of the day I had to think back and go over the nicknames to which I have been ascribed over the course of the past two years. I've been called "Little Lautenbaugh," "Lautenbaugh Lite," "Lautenbaugh, Jr." and it seemed to me obvious that the person that I was to recognize

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today was Senator Scott Lautenbaugh. And he was a person, as you all know, he is a person who is prone to take on the tough battles. He's also received nicknames, "Leader of the Clique" over the years. And he's not afraid to take on some of the most formidable members of this Legislature. At various times, he's taken on Senator Chambers, Senator Lathrop, Senator McCoy; and there aren't a lot of members of this Legislature who can put those three together. But he managed to do it and he was able to win many of those battles. And at times no doubt there are members of this Legislature who were a little bit afraid by Senator Lautenbaugh's style. And I think the reason that that is, is because Senator Lautenbaugh is so effective and so good at what he does on this floor. And I recall the phrase that if you want to avoid criticism, say nothing, do nothing, and be nothing. And Senator Lautenbaugh takes the opposite approach. And to me the word that most characterizes Senator Lautenbaugh's mentality is courage. When Melissa and I were having a discussion last night about the retiring members of this Legislature and Senator Lautenbaugh's name came up at length. And we talked about the words that we would describe, that we use to ascribe to him. We called him steadfast certainly; earnest person; he's down to earth; he's an honest person; he's a plain speaking person. You know his mind. And he's the first person who will stand up and defend any member of this floor or any cause in which he believes, any person that he feels is being unjustly attacked. He earned the nickname before I was a member of this Legislature. Anytime a person was attacked he'd come out of his cave like a papa bear and take care of those who were under attack. And that's...or mama bear, I guess is what they...thank you, Senator Nordquist (laughter). And that requires courage because for a person to stand up and lead and fight, regardless of the criticism and regardless of what is said about him takes an uprightness of character and it takes courage. And that's what he has. Recently there was an article on the World-Herald which described the acrimonious nature of this legislative session. And in the comment section, on the on-line version of the article, one of the commentators noted the collaboration that Senator Lautenbaugh and I have had over the last two years and referred to Senator Lautenbaugh as a genius, an evil genius, but a genius nonetheless (laughter). I'm sure they're correct about the evil part; the genius I'm not so sure about. That's what I'm here for, Senator Lautenbaugh. And they hypothesize as to why could it be because the discussion on the comment section played out, why would Senator Murante deal with Senator Lautenbaugh because he's an evil genius and Senator Murante seems like such a good guy? So why would they be collaborating so much? And the hypothesis was that Senator Lautenbaugh has dirt on me, which the opposite is more likely to be true but (laughter)...but we have had a very good relationship. Senator Lautenbaugh, this Chamber is going to be worse without you in it. You are very effective, very successful in your goals here on the floor. And the state of Nebraska is better off with you having served in the Legislature, and you will be a person who is sorely missed. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Murante. Senator Schilz, you're up next and recognized. [LB383A]

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SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Good afternoon. And I rise this afternoon to commemorate and honor the service of Senator Tom Hansen. He's a neighbor of mine really, districts right next door to each other--Lincoln County, Keith County--and he's also a cattleman. And seeing that and understanding how he cares about the people of his district and the state of Nebraska as a whole, having served with him now for six years, I understand more about what it means to be a statesman. His measured and thoughtful approach on every issue is greatly appreciated. If you want to know where somebody stands on an issue and what the proper way to go is and how it will best serve western Nebraska, Senator Hansen is a man that you want to go talk to. Being five generations off the ranch, he understands family. He understands what it means to take care of something that's not just yours, but belongs to a lot of people. I don't know how many of you know this, but he also had a grandfather that served in the House of Representatives here in Nebraska while at the time this Unicameral was born. So if you're looking for somebody to blame (laugh), but I do want to stand today and say thank you to Senator Hansen for his service as it means a lot. I hope he gets more time with his grandchildren as he says he didn't have enough while he was doing this, as well as all of his family. And I know they'll be happy to have him back home. So don't ever be a stranger. Don't ever worry about whether you're welcome in these halls again because your guidance and your leadership will always be needed. Thank you very much, Mr. President. [LB383A]

SPEAKER ADAMS PRESIDING

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Senator Schilz. Senator Burke Harr, you're recognized. [LB383A]

SENATOR HARR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Today is a day to celebrate public service to the state, to those who have made a great sacrifice of their time and their talent and their treasure to serve here. I'm going to talk about a guy who is the longest serving Governor of the state or so it seems. Senator Earl Ben Nelson served as Governor of Nebraska from...or wait, that's the wrong Senator Nelson (laughter). Darn it; I always do that. Senator John Nelson is who I'm going to talk about who is a neighbor of mine. We live about five or six blocks from each other and oftentimes we'll go for walks about the same time and run into each other, and it's always a pleasure to see him. I'm going to do a little history on his biography and I want to talk about what his friendship has meant to me. Senator John Nelson was born on a family farm in Geneva, Nebraska, four days after Christmas. His hometown would play an important role in his life. Geneva is where, in eighth grade, Senator Nelson sat in the Fillmore County Courthouse and decided he wanted to become a lawyer. I don't know why he made that mistake but I did too. He met his wife Judy who was a school teacher in Geneva, but they did not date until they met again years later in Omaha. And I think Judy is in the back and she has been at his side consistently through these eight years.

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You don't go to an event with Senator Nelson without seeing his wife, and Judy always has a great smile on her face. She's always happy to see me. She's just a pleasant, wonderful person. And as much as I'm going to miss Senator Nelson, I think I'm going to miss Judy more, so. (Laughter) Senator Nelson went on to college at the University of Nebraska in 1957 where he was a member of the Society of the Innocents. He became an officer in the Navy upon graduation so he, too, served in the military where he served in the Pacific on a destroyer. He enrolled in Creighton Law School in 1960 and started a law practice in Omaha. He ran into his wife Judy who was teaching in Omaha, and in 1975 they were married and had three children from that marriage. And he talks about 1975 being an important year. He said I remember it was the year of the great blizzard, the great tornado and Burke Harr moved back to Omaha so it was memorable. And that was written in 2007 so that's great, before I was in here. Senator Nelson has been a good friend and a colleague. Senator Chambers may be the senior member of this body in length of service, but contrary to his assertions, he is not the oldest person on the floor. After today, you can be the old man. But Senator Nelson is the senior member by age and has been for the past four years. So he...you wouldn't know it by looking at him because he does keep such a youthful face to himself and again, his wife looks so young. But I want to say, I talked to Lieutenant Governor Heidemann when he was up here. I said, you know, is there something you think I should say about him since you served on the Appropriations Committee with him so long? And one of the words he said is, he's just a rock solid guy; and that's so true. John Nelson is conservative. John Nelson is not partisan, and that's what I admire about him. He is a guy who has his core beliefs. And he and I may not always believe on our core beliefs. [LB383A]

SPEAKER ADAMS: One minute. [LB383A]

SENATOR HARR: Thank you. But what makes him great is he lives his beliefs, he's genuine, and you can count on him. You know where John Nelson stands at all times. I'm going to look forward to seeing him on some walks, seeing him around the neighborhood, seeing him at our neighborhood meetings that I assume he will still attend once he's gone. But again, I want to thank everybody who is leaving for your eight years of service but I really want to thank Senator John Nelson. Thank you. [LB383A]

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Senator Harr. Senator Chambers, there are no other lights on so you are recognized to close on your motion to return. [LB383A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, a hard life makes a hard man. I had a few words with the Speaker, a few words with Senator Smith, and I'm going to withdraw not only that motion but I'm going to withdraw the remaining motions I have on the remaining bills. What I said to the Speaker and what he said to me; what I said to Senator Smith and what he said to me will be between us. But you can have the rest of the session, enjoy yourselves, and be happy those 17 of you that you don't have

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to contend with me anymore. But as for the rest of you, everything I said still goes. Thank you, Mr. President, and I'm out of here. [LB383A]

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. The motion is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, we'll proceed on with LB383A. [LB383A]

CLERK: (Read LB383A on Final Reading.) [LB383A]

SPEAKER ADAMS: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB383A pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB383A]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1622.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB383A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN PRESIDING

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB383A passes. Mr. Clerk. [LB383A]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers wishes to withdraw AM2946. [LB390]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Mr. Clerk, continuing on with LB390. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB390]

CLERK: 40 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB390]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB390]

CLERK: (Read title of LB390.) [LB390]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB390 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB390]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1623.) 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB390]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB390 passes. We now move on to LB526. [LB390 LB526]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would like to withdraw AM2947. (Read LB526 on Final Reading.) [LB526]

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB526 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB526]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1624.) 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB526]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB526 passes. Mr. Clerk, LB700. [LB526 LB700]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers wishes to withdraw AM2948. [LB700]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB700]

CLERK: 40 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB700]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB700]

CLERK: (Read title of LB700.) [LB700]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB700 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB700]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1625.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB700]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB700 passes. Mr. Clerk, LB788. [LB700 LB788]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would like to withdraw AM2949. [LB788]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB788]

CLERK: 35 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB788]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB788]

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CLERK: (Read title of LB788.) [LB788]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB788 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB788]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1626.) 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB788]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB788 passes. Mr. Clerk, LB811. [LB788 LB811]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would like to withdraw AM2862, AM2954, and AM2950; FA324 (Senator Lathrop). [LB811]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB811]

CLERK: 37 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB811]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB811]

CLERK: (Read title of LB811.) [LB811]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB811 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB811]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1627.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB811]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB811 passes. Mr. Clerk, LB916. [LB811 LB916]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would like to withdraw AM2951. (Read LB916 on Final Reading.) [LB916]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB916 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB916]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1628.) 43 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB916]

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB916 passes. Mr. Clerk, LB923. [LB916 LB923]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would like to withdraw AM2952. (Read LB923 on Final Reading.) [LB923]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB923 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB923]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1629.) 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB923]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB923 passes. Mr. Clerk, LB923A. [LB923 LB923A]

CLERK: Mr. President, AM2953, Senator Chambers would like to withdraw that amendment. (Read LB923A on Final Reading.) [LB923A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB923A pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB923A]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1629-1630.) 44 ayes, 1 nay, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB923A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: LB923A passes. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign: LB383, LB383A, LB390, LB526, LB700, LB788, LB811, LB916, LB923, and LB923A. Senator Wightman for a motion. [LB923A LB383 LB383A LB390 LB526 LB700 LB788 LB811 LB916 LB923]

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Mr. President, I move that a committee of five be appointed to notify the Governor that the One Hundred Third Legislature, Second Session, of the Nebraska Legislature is about to complete its work and to return with any message the Governor may have for the Legislature.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. I would appoint the following committee: Senator Avery, Senator Hansen, Senator Harms, Senator Dubas, and Senator Nelson. Would the escort committee retire to the rear of the Chamber to escort the Governor. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Governor of

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the great state of Nebraska, Dave Heineman.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Members, the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Dave Heineman.

GOVERNOR HEINEMAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you very much. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, guests, friends, and fellow Nebraskans, for nearly ten years I've had the opportunity to work with you and your staff members, and I want to start today by thanking the Legislature's staff and the senators' staff for your professionalism on the many issues that we work on. I especially want to recognize the Clerk of the Legislature, Patrick O'Donnell. Patrick, I've known you for a long time. You're a good friend and a true professional. I appreciate and respect the job that you do and the fair and impartial manner in which you fulfill your duties. Mr. Clerk, thank you. I want to take this opportunity to thank the senators who will be leaving the Legislature this year. Senators Adams, Ashford, Avery, Carlson, Christensen, Conrad, Dubas, Hansen, Harms, Karpisek, Lathrop, Lautenbaugh, McGill, Nelson, Pirsch, Wallman, and Wightman. Thank you for your service to our state. I'll clap for you. I also want to acknowledge and thank my cabinet members, my personal staff, the staff of the Policy Research Office, the Budget Office, and the thousands of Nebraskans who work for state government. The work you do every day requires a deep sense of dedication and commitment to helping others. We appreciate your service and your work. For a few minutes I want to discuss the 2014 legislative session. It's been a very good year for Nebraska taxpayers. We are providing more than \$412 million of tax relief to Nebraskans over the next five years. That is meaningful, responsible, and significant tax relief. We've indexed Nebraska's individual income tax brackets for inflation. We've begun the process of exempting Social Security income and military retirement income from taxation. We've helped farmers and ranchers by eliminating the sales tax on repair parts for ag machinery and equipment. We've expanded Nebraska's homestead exemption program so that more Nebraskans will qualify. We've provided homeowners, farmers, ranchers, the small businesses, additional direct property tax relief by increasing the property tax credit program by \$25 million, and we need to do even more in the future. We've addressed the water sustainability issue with noteworthy legislation that preserves our water supply for generations to come. This legislation is aimed at planning for future water use in our state, especially in preparing for water shortages as well as addressing water quality and flood control issues. Preserving and managing our water resources is important to Nebraskans, especially those who work in our number one industry, agriculture. We will be working with the Council of State Governments to develop a pathway to a long-term prison strategy. During this session, there were vigorous debates on a wide variety of issues and that's good, because we all aren't likely to agree on every policy issue. Nebraskans and I are pleased that future education funding has remained prioritized through the rejection of Obamacare's Medicaid expansion program. It's also important to maintain our pay-as-you-go, debt-free roads construction program. Over the years

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working together, we've made a lot of progress on numerous issues. We focused our attention on the two most important critical issues for the future of our state--education and jobs. We've passed statewide education assessments. We are focused on academic achievement and academic improvement. As a result, student test scores are improving. Nebraska now has a top ten college-going rate and we have the second highest high school graduation rate in America at 88.5 percent. We are preparing future generations of leaders for the jobs of tomorrow. We are focused on creating careers that will keep our young people here in the state and allow them to thrive in a global, free-market, technology-driven economy. We've created a better environment for the private sector to grow jobs and look at the results. Nebraska is on the move and we need to maintain that economic momentum. Nebraska is fifth in soybean production, third in producing corn, the second leading ethanol producer, first in pinto beans and popcorn production, and Nebraska is now the number one cattle feeding state in America. Nebraska is a leader in a diversity of industries, including the insurance, telecommunications, food processing, and transportation sectors of our economy. Nebraska has the second lowest unemployment rate in America. We are working to ensure that those who served our country in the military have good jobs when they come home. The strengths of Nebraska are seen across the state in example after example. Omaha has been recognized as one of the best cities for businesses and a top five military-friendly city. Lincoln has been recognized as the best city in America for new jobs and the happiest city in America. Grand Island has been identified as one of the hundred best communities for young people. Kearney is one of the best cities for start-up businesses. Columbus has been recognized as one of the hundred best small towns to live in. Arlington was recognized as the second best town in America to raise kids. Nebraska City is one of the top ten best small towns to visit. Scottsbluff has the fourth best library for children in all of America. And just last month Nebraska won the Governor's Cup for being the number one state in America for the most economic development projects on a per capita basis during 2013. Collectively, working with our citizens and the business community, we've made it happen. We have real economic momentum and we can do even better in the future. Again, thank you for your work on behalf of the citizens of Nebraska. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Governor. Would the committee escort the Governor from the Chamber. Senator Christensen.

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Mr. President, I move that we proceed to the presentation of the legislative service awards.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Members, you have heard the motion. All those in favor vote aye. All opposed, nay. We will move ahead. Speaker Adams.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members, first award may seem a bit facetious to you, but important. You know, we have all these committees in

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the Legislature and they all do important work. But we never herald the E&R Committee. (Laughter) And particularly its chair who I know has trouble getting his committee members together and, therefore, probably spends hours on his own wading through the volumes of work that we send him. So, Senator Murante, on behalf of your colleagues for all of your work in E&R that goes unrecognized, the Legislature has a briefcase--I think there's a hole in the bottom of it--for you.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Speaker Adams.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I want to take a moment and thank you. We know you have a busy schedule and can't be here very often, but constitutionally you are kind of a member of this body. And on behalf of my colleagues and I, I want to thank you for the time that you have given us throughout the course of the session, not only there in the seat but in my office. We appreciate it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you very much. Would Senator Wightman please come forward.

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm going to get out my sheet of copious notes and I want to thank all of you for the last eight years. I've enjoyed serving with all of you--only part of you, only 16 other of you for eight years. Also, for those of six, four, and two years. Senator Garrett, he wasn't here, but he's even a little less than that. But it's been a great eight years, possibly seven years and six months, but whatever. It's been a pleasure to serve with all of you. Twenty-two of you started with our class, or us, I should say because I was one of the 22. Seventeen have finished the line, the eight-year line. I've enjoyed working with all of you. I've been pleased during the time I've been here to have my granddaughters visit a great deal, so I might have been...had more joy there than some of you have been able to have. So, again, I've enjoyed working with all of you. Senator Campbell, you were so kind in your words that I don't think I could have said them nicer myself. I hope it wasn't too undeserved. I hope that many of you have had as much pleasure as I have in serving the eight years. So with that, I say adieu and thank you for all of you that have been here. I wish the best for all of you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Wightman. Senator Wallman.

SENATOR WALLMAN: Reverse order, hey, Patrick. (Laughter) I, too, want to thank all who I've served with, especially my wife and my children and grandchildren and my brothers and their families who helped during this time on the farm, and all the people I worked with, and this up front here as well, and Patrick. And all the things I've learned while I've been here, still learning. And pleased to serve the great state of Nebraska. And so may God bless this state and may God bless you all.

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Wallman. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well, thank you. It's...really I've been so busy as of late it only really struck me this morning as I walked in that this is the last day of my service on this legislative floor. And there are too many people to thank and too little time to thank everyone that I need to or should do for their support during my legislative service. But I do want to specifically recognize and thank God and my family. And to my wife I want to say in particular, thank you for picking up the slack and caring for the kids and in so many different ways that you have sacrificed over and over and over again throughout the eight years I've been down here. There are no words to adequately express my gratitude. All I can say is, I love you. To my constituents and to the people of Nebraska, I thank you for having trust in me and my judgment. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve you. To my legislative colleagues, you've impressed me with your passion and your dedication for public service regardless of which side of the political spectrum you're following. And as I leave this body, I feel good about what I've been able to achieve and the people that I've been able to help. And so I'm proud to have made a difference in passing laws that make Nebraskans safer from crime, especially children, and to help agriculture and commerce in our state. In closing, I'd like to note that good-byes are simply new journeys of life waiting to be discovered. I've enjoyed my public service in this Chamber and I look forward to continuing that journey. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President, colleagues, family and friends, serving eight years in this body has been a second career for me and I have been living the dream. I was born during the Great Depression, remember huge dust storms, and saw grasshoppers strip a field of corn. As a young boy during the dark days of World War II with rationing and casualty lists, I saw fear and concern on the faces of my parents. My faith, values, and conservative views were being shaped during those formative years. They have guided me in committee and here on the floor. During my freshman year, an interviewer asked, as a new senator, how were you able to survive this first long session? I responded, with a good night's sleep and prayer. That has not changed. But in hindsight I should have added, and the love and support of my wonderful wife Judy. Because we all have vocal constituents of conservative and progressive persuasion, both viewpoints need representation. Not all problems can be solved by legislation. As a Unicameral, we do not have another elected body to take a second considered look at bills before they become law. The enthusiasm and ideals of younger members often need to be tempered by the knowledge and values of those who have lived a longer life, experiencing success but also personal or financial hardship. The good judgment and caution derived from such experience plays an important role in formulating policy and fiscal responsibility for the governance of this great state. Much of this is done behind the scenes. Not everyone can be at the forefront. But having collaborated with Senators John Harms and John Wightman and Danielle Conrad for eight years on Appropriations

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and having sponsored legislation in several other areas, I look back on some significant contributions during my tenure here and take satisfaction in that. I want to thank my current staff Paula Thomassen and Michael McHale, along with past members Justin Pratt and John Murante for their loyalty and great support. It has been a great privilege to know and work with all of the outgoing senators, many of whom have become good friends. As we conclude our watch to you remaining senators and our successors, I say carry on.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator McGill.

SENATOR MCGILL: In so many ways this has been a true coming of age experience for me. For those of you who have been in here for eight years, you've seen me go from a quiet listener to someone who's willing to fight on the tough issues that are not easy to solve. Many of you have been mentors to me, you've encouraged me along the way, and at times challenged me. I, of course, have to thank my parents. Without them I wouldn't be the independent person I am today with the values of hard work and a willingness to fight for what's right and to put people first. We've all been through a lot together, both inside the Chamber and without, and so I want to take a moment and thank you all for the support you gave me last year as my mother became sick. Your words and your experiences helped me through that difficult time and continue to inspire me. I am also grateful that I was able to share one of the best days of my life with you a couple of weeks ago as my new future has started with my life ahead with Clayton. I will certainly look back and reflect on the good times and the battles we've had here in the Legislature, but it's the relationships I remember and will remember the most. And you will all forever be etched in my heart. And I promised Senator Chambers I'd sing just a wee bit for you. (Singing) There are places I remember all my life, though some have changed. Some forever not for better. Some have gone and some remain. All these places have their moments with lovers and friends I still can recall. Some are dead and some are living. In my life I love you all.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator McGill. Senator Lautenbaugh, you are recognized.

SENATOR LAUTENBAUGH: The Lieutenant Governor says I have to sing. I'm not going to sing. (Laughter) Boy, this is difficult. I said, well, how do you do this? And someone said, well, be gracious and heartfelt. And it's like, well, two minutes seems way too long for me then to do that. (Laughter) Someone said, well, just speak in your own words. So today, today, today, today, I consider myself, self, self, self, (laughter) the luckiest man on the face of the earth. But, seriously, this has been an honor to be here. I don't know how else to put it beyond that. It's been difficult at times. It's been fun at times. It's been maddening at times. I remember at one point saying last year I think, you know, oh, term limits, where is thy sting. You know, well, here it is. And I think it is nice to be reminded that it's time to go. I have 14-year-old twins that are going into high

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school now and they need my constant attention now (laughter) these next few years, with tracking devices and whatnot I think. So it's time to go home. And it's been a pleasure serving with all of you. I have no song certainly and no profound thoughts to leave you with. I'm sure our paths will cross again. Who knows where I'll find myself next year at this time. But I'll be around. Thank you, all.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Lautenbaugh. Senator Lathrop.

SENATOR LATHROP: I don't really know what to say. I can't tell you how much I love this place. I consider it a privilege to be a lawyer that has the opportunity to practice law and to go into a courtroom. But it doesn't compare to the privilege, the honor, that I've experienced serving. Serving with all of you, my colleagues, I have enjoyed every single day. Maybe not every single day (laughter). That isn't exactly true. But I have enjoyed this experience enormously. And what has made it so valuable to me are my colleagues and all the wonderful people here, all the wonderful people here that support us in what we do. I'm awfully grateful to those 14 people in District 12. (Laughter) The truth is, Jean Stothert is grateful too. It worked out well for both of us. Seriously, I have been blessed with great staff. Molly, Doug, and Dan, and those that came before them, and all the people who worked on the various committees that I served on, the people in the Clerk's Office. I'll just tell you it has been an incredible experience for me. So thanks and carry on.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Senator Karpisek.

SENATOR KARPISEK: Well, (laughter) what a ride. I've dreaded this day for eight years and here it is. Always wonder what you'll say. But I actually wrote something today, so we'll see if I can stay on it. First of all, I'd like to thank Tyler and Stephanie, my two kids, the two people who probably got the worst end of all of this from not seeing me much to hearing what an idiot their dad is in school and everywhere else they've gone. I'd also like to thank my mom and my step-dad Mike and also my girlfriend Jodi. I'm sorry, dear, but Senator Janssen blew the whole proposal thing (laughter) on the floor of the Legislature a few years ago. I'd also like to thank the voters of LD32 for allowing me to serve. Again, what an honor. Even on the days that I absolutely hated this place and everything about it, I absolutely loved it. I'd also like to thank my staff Alycia and Josh, Christina and Joan who started with me. I have come to love this building and this institution. Please keep it as nonpartisan as possible and don't let outside forces influence how it functions. I hope that I have left this place better than I found it. In some areas I'm sure I have and in others maybe not. I hope that the friends that I've made here will last a very long time, but I hope that the enemies do not. (Laughter) And to show that, I have a little gift on my desk for Senator McCoy that I'll give him and he can share with you what it is or it isn't. But Senator McDonald, the former Chair of the General Affairs Committee, gave me a little parting gift. And I've tried to think of over the past six years who embodies what she gave me the most, and it definitely is Senator

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McCoy. Again, well, what a ride. And thank you all.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Karpisek. Senator Harms.

SENATOR HARMS: You know, this is the last time that I will have the opportunity to speak to you. And I have kind of a heavy heart. I wasn't sure I was going to have that. And the thing that I realized as I sat here is what I'm going to miss the most is the friendship in here, the friends that I have made, the people that I spoke to about different issues and the legislation that I introduced and the passion that I have about some particular topics. Thank you very much, colleagues, for your support and thank you for most of all being a friend. I want to...there's a few people I'd like to thank today. First, I want to thank my lovely wife Pat. I fell in love with her when I was a sophomore in high school. Fifty-one years later that passion is still there. And she has been willing to make a lot of changes. And when I ran for this office, I was really worried. Can I uproot her in her comfort zone and put her in a whole different world that she's really not used to? Hey, what do I know. She did well, and she's always been very supportive and I appreciate that, Pat. Thank you. I have two of probably the best staff members. I know we all think we have great staff, but I really do have in both Jennifer and Tyanne. Both of these two young women are just phenomenal. Jennifer, with her smiley face and bubbly personality, lifts my spirit every time I come into the office. She took control of that office and she ran it and I received lots of compliments from people who interface with her. She's the first on the line as we all know to get those calls that none of us want. She did very well with those. And, Tyanne, I just want you to know that you have the full package. She's extremely bright, articulate, and when she developed the legislation that I had an interest in, colleagues, if I could not answer any of your questions it was my own fault because she had me prepared. All inventoried. She knew about what kind of questions were going to be asked. And, Tyanne, I thank you for that because it's truly appreciated. There are four members, which was brought up earlier by John Nelson, that we spent an awfully lot of time together. And that's in the Appropriations Committee, and that's Senator Conrad, Senator Nelson, Senator Wightman, and myself. We came through some really tough times and we came through some good times. But we stayed together, we worked hard together, and we presented, I think, really a good budget for us to vote on and felt comfortable with that particular part of my role and job here. I want to take a moment if I can--I don't want to go too long here--to thank Patrick O'Donnell and his staff. I've had the fortunate opportunity to be on this floor for eight years. And I don't think I have ever worked with more professional people, kind people, willing to help you whenever they can. And it didn't take me long to figure out if I didn't know what I needed to do, I would definitely slip into their offices and find out. We are very fortunate. When we are here late at nights and I look up here and see his staff, you know, looking very tired, they have to stay focused on everything we do and everything we say. We can get up and leave; they can't. And I just want to say thank you very much because I truly appreciate people who are professional, and, Patrick, you have a professional staff. Thank you so very

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much. In closing, I'd simply like to say, you know, in everything, every time, there's a season and a purpose. My season as a senator is truly coming to a close. And my future purposes will now take me down another pathway. Whatever my failings as a senator I hope that they have been mitigated by the unwavering devotion and the passion I have with legislation I introduced and believed in. To quote Shakespeare's Othello, where I've transgressed, it may have been because he loved not wisely but too well. In closing, I would say that, and I don't know where I go this but it's one of my favorites, life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain. And, colleagues, thank you for teaching me how to dance in the rain. It's been appreciated.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Harms. Senator Hansen.

SENATOR HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. As I come to the mike for the last time, I'm a little...a bit, you know, a little heartfelt thanks. And I did experience the Harms's drive last Friday morning. We got up early and drove to Scottsbluff. This is a big state. In my adult life, I had a motto. And my motto has been since college, all's well that ends. (Laughter) I was elected the day of my 60th birthday eight years ago. I was right off the range and being strange. Senator Lathrop wondered what that meant. I never did get to talk to him about it. I was red as a berry from riding the prairie, but in really good health. Dark hair, healthy. Eight years later, all gray, new knee, walk with a limp, back always hurts, hearing is about gone, sometimes I can't find my glasses. (Laughter) I, too, want to thank my legislative staff--Barb, who's been here all eight years, Pat has been here a couple of years, and Jill before her. Ten-twelve has always been the party place in the northwest corner of the building. But it has been an honor to serve my district in this body, this body of years and years of process, years and years of development. And someone mentioned earlier today, I think Senator Schilz and my grandfather was here, and it was just great to follow in those footsteps, and I hope those footsteps were straight and true. My wife Linda is retiring this summer on about June 30, somewhere in that area. She's not been down here very much. She stayed home, kept the home fires burning, watch the kids, the grandkids grow and develop while I missed that. I've tried to get home every weekend. And I've only missed two weekends in eight years getting home and spending time with my wife, as short as it might be. Get home, 9:00 on Friday night, leave Sunday at noon, a little after noon after church. But it's not been a lot of time at home. It's time that I go home, start dating my wife. And remember this: All's well that ends. (Laughter)

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Dubas.

SENATOR DUBAS: How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness, how the time has "flewn". How did it get so late so soon? Who better to sum up eight years in the Legislature than Dr. Seuss? (Laughter) There are just so many people to thank: Ron, my children, my

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grandchildren, my mom, all my in-laws, my dad who's with me in spirit. A special thanks to my son-in-law Joe who has put up with his mother-in-law showing up on his doorstep, suitcase in hand, far more than any son-in-law would ever imagine that to happen in his life. I want to thank all of District 34 for putting their faith and trust in me as their representative. I have just learned so much over these last eight years, and it's been a true privilege and honor to serve as your state senator. As been mentioned by others, we are so fortunate to be surrounded by committed people who truly care about this wonderful Unicameral. To Patrick and everyone in the Clerk's Office, Legislative Research, the Revisor's, Fiscal, Performance Audit, Ombudsman, our Sergeant at Arms, our pages, those in the bill room, technology, transcribers, the Unicameral Information and, of course, Chuck. We couldn't do this job by ourselves, so thank you. To all of the AA's, LA's, research analysts, legal counsels, thank you so much for all of your hard work and dedication. I want to say a special thanks to Jess and Bev, Joselyn, Anne, and Anna. Thank you is simply not adequate for what you mean to me and how much I have valued our working relationship and even more so our friendship. I know I can always count on you to keep me pointed in the right direction and usually showing up in the right place at the right time. To my classmates of 2006: wow, what a ride. We have served together, we've fought with each other, we've laughed at and with each other, and we've worked together. I wish you all God speed and happy trails as you close this chapter in your life and begin a new one. To my remaining colleagues: I wish you wisdom and courage and an unwavering support for this institution of the Unicameral. I have been given so much throughout these past eight years by so many of you. I only hope that I've given back as much as I've received. And finally to my husband, you're just my rock. You have given so much to support me throughout this experience, and no one will really ever understand, I think it's similar to what Senator Hansen just said, you've just always been there. So thank you so much. We can take so much pride in the fact that we are the people's branch of government. The salvation of the state is the watchfulness of the citizen, and that is carried out each and every day during our legislative sessions. So relish that fact and enjoy every moment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Dubas. Senator Conrad.

SENATOR CONRAD: Good evening. I love this great state and I love this unique and proud institution, and it has been my incredible honor and privilege to serve this state and to serve with each of you over the past eight years. Let me start with a few thank-yous. Initially to the good people of north Lincoln's "Fightin' 46th" Legislative District, thank you so much for your vote of confidence on at least two occasions that have allowed me to live out my life dream in this body and to deliver for working families in my community and across this great state. Let me also say to my staff who's been with me every single minute of service, to Nancy and Julia, thank you for your talent and your dedication and your unwavering commitment. Hi, Caroline. (Laughter) And for all of your good work in service to our great state. I sincerely could not do it without you. And then, yes, a perfect reminder, a perfect segue. Let me thank my family. You heard a

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little bit earlier today about my entree into politics, but without the nurturing from my parents, Dan and Stephanie Nantkes, from that fateful day in fourth grade all the way through both campaigns and to here today, that wouldn't have been possible. I was fortunate then to expand my family to include the Conrads, and they were with me every step of the way from the moment we met and were here with us today to celebrate as well. Personal thanks to Tom. You're a fantastic husband, so supportive and loving and strong, and I'm eternally grateful that you're in my life and that you're my partner in this life. And then to my Caroline, hi, Caroline! Hi! Hi! Mommy loves you so much. And, yes, yes, hi! (Laughter) And you remind me every single day why I work so hard and why I fight so hard, because I want our Nebraska to be more fair and more just for the next generation. Because when every Nebraskan has an opportunity to succeed, it benefits every Nebraskan. I love you all deeply. I wish you the best. Protect this proud institution. Keep it nonpartisan. Keep it independent. Keep it efficient. Keep it transparent. And best of luck to all you do.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Conrad. Senator Christensen.

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Good evening. Colleagues, it's been an honor to serve with you. It's been so interesting to take on the battles that we have went through that has defined each one of us. As I was looking through devotion this morning, Proverbs 18:17 stuck out to me. And it said the first to plead his case seems right until another comes out and examines him. Isn't that just what every bill that we introduce and every bill that we deal with is how it's handled? It always seems like a great idea until somebody counters it and makes you think about the other side it. And every issue has two sides. And that's why it's been such an honor to serve with everyone here and to represent the District 44 that I represent. I've had a great support from my district. I've had the honor every week during every session for eight years to have two conference calls a week back to visit with people in my district to discuss how and why I voted, to see how they would like to have votes done, to discuss maybe you'd say the inside information from the Legislature. And I can't say enough thank-you to the great constituents that I represent in District 44, because it's a very vast district. When you start looking at 90 miles north and south, 200 hundred miles east and west, it's a large district. And it changes drastically from one end to the other. Several people have said, well, water has been your life, and it has. And it corresponds with my district. The state of Nebraska changes about one inch of rain every 50 miles. So the needs of the district vary drastically. But I can't say enough how you guys have listened to me, let me present my side of the story, the opportunities and needs in my district, and I can't say enough. Thank you for the questions and the opportunity not only to serve my district but to serve the state of Nebraska. I, too, need to thank my staff. I've had Dan Wiles with me for eight years. I had Jennifer for a year, and I had Kylee for six, and I've had Alex for one, and it's just great to have great staff supporting you. And as you guys know, I introduced a lot of bills, so I kept my staff busy. But it's been a fantastic opportunity. It seems very short to have been...to go through eight years. But as I look back and have

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to think, Malachi was...is only eight years old. He was just born when we was campaigning. And to go through the phase until the last two years he's been totally a momma's boy. In the last two years he says, dad, come home. Dad, when are you coming home? That's the tough part, to go through missing your kids activities but yet having the honor to serve this state. And I definitely have to not only thank my kids for the sacrifice they've made but my beautiful wife has been very supportive and encouraging of me, helped me campaign, has always spent the first and last week down here with me, encouraging me and, again, setting me straight, keeping me looking forward, and appreciating the opportunity that God has given me. Again, thank you colleagues. Thank you, state of Nebraska. It's been an awesome opportunity to serve. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Christensen. Senator Carlson.

SENATOR CARLSON: Thank you and thank-yous are due. And, first of all, is Margo, and she retired from teaching as I was campaigning for the Legislature, and it's been a terrific blessing to have her down here with me these entire eight years. There's nothing like it. I also thank Patrick and the Clerk staff because you make things a whole lot more enjoyable and easier for us as we've gone along and greatly appreciate what everyone has done. My staff. There's no better staff in the Capitol. Nanette Hesse and Barb DeRiese have been with me for all eight years. They get the endurance award. And then Barb Koehlmoos and Laurie Lage in the time that I've been with Natural Resources Committee and I really appreciate all that they have done. Chuck Hubka, he's the one who's everywhere and really appreciate him. Ron and the red coats and your faithful service is great. State Patrol, you keep us safe. And that's the most important thing that state government does I think, keep it's people safe. And, pages, thank you for...well, not too many of them left. (Laughter) But we appreciate what they have done not only in the Chamber but in the hearings as well. Well, these have been eight great years. Margo and I have made many, many wonderful lifetime friends. I've carried several important bills but, of course, the crown was LB1098, which affords us the opportunity to achieve water sustainability throughout the state. And I thank all of you for your overwhelming support and the work that many of you did in putting that bill in a position that we could carry it through. Thank you. Now I know at least 17 of you are very happy today because you're going to get new offices next January. (Laughter) So that's the good part of today. I respect the Unicameral form of government and I really believe in spite of some shortcomings it's the best form of government in the United States. Appreciate it and stay with it. And I want to leave you with three principles of governing. Number one, you're never wrong to be nice; number two, you're never wrong to be respectful; and number three, you'll disagree with others, their views and their beliefs, but strive to show dignity and respect to goals and ideas that are different from yours. It'll serve you well. And that should be a distinguishing element of the Nebraska Legislature. These past eight years have been amongst the most interesting and satisfying of my life and Margo as well. We are better people because of you. Thank

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you. [LB1098]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Carlson. Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Why does the Governor get a stool to stand on and I don't?  
(Laughter) Yeah. All right. Thank you, Patrick.

CLERK: You're welcome.

SENATOR AVERY: Yeah. In December of 2006 just weeks after I was elected to this body, my wife and I came over just to walk around the Capitol. And we stood behind the glass and we looked in and for the first time I saw my name on the vote board. And that was a special moment. I have to admit I was thrilled to see it. But we had worked so hard to get here, and it was a joint effort all along and I thank her for that. In that moment though the journey I was beginning became very real. I took this journey because I believe in this state. This is a state that I have chosen to call home for 40 years. I wasn't born here. I came here and decided to make this my home, a Nebraskan by choice. Also I believed then, I still do, that the opportunity to make meaningful and thoughtful policy is better in this Unicameral than it is anywhere in the country. I believe that fervently. I've said it many times: Nebraskans are hardworking people who play by the rules. They don't want much. They just want to be treated fairly. They want a fair wage for their work, good schools, safe neighborhoods, and a chance to build a successful life for their families. I believe that together we have helped them do that. I really do. As a former teacher of government, I'm often asked to comment on the Unicameral. You know, people think college professors know more than they do, and I never try to disabuse them of that assumption. (Laughter) So we'll talk about anything. But I'm often asked to comment on the Unicameral, and I never miss an opportunity to tell Nebraskans that they should take pride in what they have. This institution is the most open and accountable Legislature in the entire country. We are unique in that respect and we should always honor that. I'm proud of it. Knowing that I had just eight years to accomplish all that I could, I've taken on a lot of issues and, like Mark Christensen, I've carried many bills, perhaps more than my staff would have wanted. And I do thank them for the hard work they've put in and with a little complaint maybe but, nonetheless, they did the work and they did it well. Not everything worked out. I think I can say that I had more bills die in committee than anybody. Oh, wait, there's Mark. I forgot. Mark Christensen (laughter) probably has that record. But I do want to thank all of the voters of District 28 for the tremendous opportunity to serve in this body. I would like to say they had good judgment. But I do take seriously the confidence they placed in me, and I strive every day to represent them in all things and to deserve their respect. I trust that I have succeeded in doing that. I want to acknowledge what these years have meant to me personally. I have learned so much about so many things. But more importantly it will be the people that I have met and the permanent friendships that I have developed that I will remember the most and will miss the most. There are people

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in this body that I would never know without having been a part of it. And I know that these friendships will last, and I really value that a lot. These experiences mean very much to me, so I want to thank each of you for all that you have done to enrich my life and my time in this remarkable institution. Soon my name will no longer be on that voting board, and I assure you that that doesn't matter. This place will endure. You will do it right, and sometimes you won't, but most of the time you will. (Laughter) Somebody said there are two opinions. Mark said there are two opinions to each side. Yes, mine and mine. That's often how I feel about it. I'm right. You're wrong. That's my opinion. But like this institution, all of these memories are special. And for all of that I thank you.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Eat your heart out, Senator Avery. (Laughter) Thank you all very much. I concur with everyone else who has been up here and has extolled the virtues of the nonpartisan Legislature created by George Norris in 1937. And if it weren't for the nonpartisan Legislature, I never would have been able to change parties as many times as I have (laughter). So I'm glad that Senator Seiler gave me comments that he did earlier because Senator Hadley was ready to take a pass, he said. Anyway, I concur with what everyone else has said. You are my family, and I think about...in many ways, and I think about the 16 years I've been here and I look out and see all of you and I...when I look in these various chairs and various places, I see those who are no longer with us whom I served with 25 years ago sitting in the very seats that we sit in today. Jerry Warner scowling, Vard Johnson trying to explain that LB775 was really a jobs bill. Senator...well, so many, so many that I could go through the list. Howard Lamb telling me the best thing that could happen to Westside that it would go away. (Laughter) That was exciting. And then just...and my first year in the Legislature allowing us to buy Joslyn Castle for \$75,000. So all those experiences I remember. But most importantly I remember the last eight years with you. I always tell my friends, why do you love the Legislature so much. I said, my father used to take me to the state basketball tournament as a youth. And at the...obviously in those days the tournament was at the coliseum. And I was always so amazed at the number of teams that were there, some playing on the stage, some playing on the main court, and all the different towns that they came from to play basketball in the fifties in Lincoln. And I think of this Legislature much the same way. We are very different but we're so much alike. And I think what I leave this place with is that thought. There are no bad ideas. We are so much more the same than we are different. Let me also thank so many people it's going to be very difficult and I'll go very quickly. But I do want to give special recognition to my friend Greg Adams. Early in our tenure together we tended to be involved in some difficult negotiations with various parties, and it was always a great experience to have Senator Adams with us. He's done a great job as Speaker. I applaud him. And thank you, Greg, for your commitment to that position. My staff, Stacey and LaMont who were with me for so long, and Jenn and Diane who were with me for a very short period of time but made

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such a difference in the last year as we did prison reform; Oliver VanDervoort who's been clerk of the Judiciary Committee for these eight years; Jonathan Bradford who may still be here, may not be here; and Brittany Cudaback who filled in and did a wonderful job this last year as we've transitioned to a new staff. And like all of you, I am grateful to my family, to Ann and my children, to Patrick who I've served with since 1986 who has done such a...and his staff and everyone else, everyone in this room, and everyone who had been in this room back in the 1980s and '90s. And, finally, thank you to the people of the state of Nebraska in the 6th Legislative District and the 20th Legislative District who gave me an opportunity to be here. Thank you all very much.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Speaker Adams.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members, I'm not going up there. (Laughter) Right here. This has been home for eight years, occupied maybe by others more than me at this microphone. (Laughter) But this is my last shot and I plan to take it right here. I tried to also limit the amount of time to two minutes so I can spend more time. (Laughter) I promise not to take too much. The Nebraska way. How many times have we heard that this session? The Nebraska way. We're quick to grab that out of the hat, but there's something to it and we're sitting in it. I've had an opportunity to talk to a lot of speakers from other states, and they look at this place and say, really. I won't mention names, but a speaker told me, Adams, it sounds too idealistic in Nebraska. Very inefficient the way you operate. Everybody getting to introduce bills, everybody getting to have priority bills. I couldn't help but remind everyone at the table representative democracy was never meant to be efficient. And that's what we have. And that Nebraska way, maybe it's easier to say now than it was a couple of hours ago or a couple of weeks or a couple of months ago, means rancor at times, it means head-butting at times, contentiousness. We are one house. So our rules may be looser. This Speaker doesn't have much power compared to the other 49. We are a deliberative body. And it's a good thing we've got a few months to rest up, right? But when you think about the end result, as difficult as this session has been I think for all of us, as difficult as it has been, we've done the state's work, not to the agreement of everyone in this state or everyone in this room. But we've done the state's work. My staff, wonderful staff, prepared some numbers. I'm not going to stand up here and reel off numbers to you. We moved a lot of legislation this session. And two months ago if somebody said that was going to happen, I would have said there's no way. But we did a lot. Those 105 priority bills, nearly all of them saw debate time. It doesn't mean that they moved to the Governor, but they saw debate time. We did a lot. And if you want to take a step in priority up above those 105 priority bills, think back to the beginning of this session and where we were at. Clamoring for tax reform, water sustainability, prison reform. And I don't know about the rest of you, but I sat over there in that office thinking, in 60 days, how do we climb this mountain. But we did, not to the satisfaction of everyone. This is democracy after all. But we addressed the issues. We got through it. And in the end as difficult as it is, it is what deliberative legislative bodies do, and this one does it

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differently than all 49 and we need to be proud of that. Now for the farewell part. I got my political science lesson in for the day. Several years before I decided to run for the Legislature, I ran into a former state senator whose name I won't mention. And I said to him, I'm thinking about running someday. Tell me what you think. He said, Adams, I'm going to tell you four things. After eight years of service, I don't have a marriage, I don't have a savings account, my car is shot, and I couldn't wait to get out of there. (Laughter) Fact. Boy, that caused me to have second thoughts. (Laughter) My wife is sitting right back here. If somebody asked me today, Adams, should I run. What did you think? I would say, well, I think we're still good. All right. (Laughter) Couldn't have done it without her I'll guarantee you. Savings account is pretty well depleted. And my 1995 Nissan pickup with 210,000 needs to be put to rest. But rather than saying couldn't wait to get out of here, what I will tell you is it's been an honor to serve. Like Senator Avery, I remember the first day I walked in here by myself, and it was the first time I saw my name up on that board. Oh, there was elections and there was orientation and all that business. I remember being called a senator for the first time in the hallway and it was like, that was strange. But it was the first time I saw that name up on the board that really had an impact. And I was sitting there and I looked up there and I said to myself, whoa, this is the real thing now. And with it comes responsibility. A responsibility to all Nebraskans and include constituents of the 24th District. A responsibility to try to make policy and do so as much as possible without politics entering in. Now that's very idealistic because this is a political body, but to try. A responsibility to protect this institution, this branch of government, and the uniqueness of this body. It probably won't be until I walk out of my office one of these days the next few months and look up and say, Adams isn't up there anymore, that it really hits me that it's over. And I hope whoever's name goes up there in my place and in the place of a bunch of other people have that same sense of responsibility to this place. I don't believe it was misplaced. It has been an honor to serve. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Speaker Adams. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, some items. I have an explanation of vote from Senator Larson (Re LB383A, LB390, LB526, LB700, LB788, LB811, LB916, LB923, LB923A.) Bills read on Final Reading were presented to the Governor at 4:15 p.m. (Re LB383, LB383A, LB390, LB526, LB700, LB788, LB811, LB916, LB923, LB923A.) That's all that I have. (Legislative Journal page 1631.) [LB383 LB383A LB390 LB526 LB700 LB788 LB811 LB916 LB923 LB923A]

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Senator Karpisek for a motion.

SENATOR KARPISEK: Mr. President, I move that all bills not otherwise disposed of, excluding bills on Final Reading and vetoed or line-item vetoed bills on this date, be indefinitely postponed. Thank you, Mr. President.

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PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Members, you have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Senator Carlson for a motion.

SENATOR CARLSON: Mr. President, I move that the chairpersons of all standing committees file with the Clerk of the Legislature all standing committee records so that a proper record may be made of the final disposition of all bills. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Members, you have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Senator Conrad for a motion.

SENATOR CONRAD: Mr. President, I move that the Legislature approve the preparation and printing of the permanent Legislative Journal, Session Laws, and Indexes by Patrick J. O'Donnell.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Members, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Senator McGill for a motion.

SENATOR MCGILL: I move that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send to each member of the Legislature a copy of the permanent Journal and Session Laws.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Members, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Senator Lathrop for a motion.

SENATOR LATHROP: I move that the Journal for the sixtieth day, as prepared by the Clerk of the Legislature, be approved.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Members, you have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Senator Ashford for a motion.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I'm not sure I want to do this one. Okay. I move that the One Hundred Third Legislature, Second Session of the Nebraska Legislature, having finished all business before it, now at 5:36 p.m., adjourn sine die.

PRESIDENT HEIDEMANN: Members, you have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. We are adjourned sine die.