

May 23, 1979

straight, as he put it, and now we have some of his colleagues taking a collection for an all-expense trip to somewhere....one way, John. But I disagree, John, your head is on okay. It's that twitch that bothers me every once in a while. In any case, I could go on here and on, but as Senator Nelson Merz would say, as he would rightly say, I am sure, I have just scratched the tip of the iceberg. And of course, Frank Lewis, he had been here all day already, as I understand it, but so much for the more serious stuff...sit down, DeCamp, it's my time right now. I do believe we have had a real productive session with a minimum of harsh disagreement. I am particularly happy that you were able with all the pressures to keep state spending within the same seven percent guidelines required for local subdivisions. Now, I'm not one of those who is totally convinced that the total criteria for a good meeting as an example is one that starts and ends on time, and yes, sometimes penny-wise can be pound-foolish, but here in 1979 if there is one call loud and clear across the land, it is that people are demanding fiscal restraint at the federal, state and local level, and because of your responsible actions it's very unlikely that the unrest and the angry tax revolt situation in California, for example, and in other states will occur here. And let's keep in mind so we have this all in proper perspective, that state spending and aid to local subdivisions in Nebraska has increased two hundred and nineteen percent for state operating expenses in the last ten years. It doesn't take much of a mathematical giant to figure that that's a twenty percent increase on an average. So your seven percent and a little under is very exemplary. But as I said in my inaugural address to you, just because we are limited in resources doesn't mean that we have to limit ourselves in our resourcefulness. We have some tough problems ahead...property tax relief, meaningful water policy, further work on equal opportunity for all of our citizens, just to list three. Always with an eye on economy and efficiency, that's the constitutional mandate that the Governor reads in the constitution, and these goals and that caveat, as I see it, are not mutually exclusive. With your help, we will just assume that Nebraska's problems are challenges...challenges we will work on and solve with hard work and leadership. As you know, I campaigned for the job I now hold on a platform of cooperation and not confrontation with the Legislature. You might remember I caught some political campaign heck on this too. I believe that this has been pretty much accomplished this year, and I want to thank