

April 9, 1980

children of others. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Legislature may be seated.

MRS. ADDIE SCHEVE: Speaker of the House, Richard Marvel, Senator Tom Kennedy and Senator Martin Kahle and all of the Senators of our great State of Nebraska, it is great to be a mother in America. It is great to be a mother in Nebraska. It is great to be a mother from Route 1, Battle Creek and it is greatest to be Nebraska's Mother of the Year. Where else could a farmwife have received a warm welcome from the honorable Governor of the State, Governor Thone? Where else could a farmwife be escorted by her honorable State Senator, Senator Tom Kennedy up this prestigious aisle to be introduced to this imminent assemblage of lawmakers and it is good to be here. I love living on a Nebraska farm. Through my kitchen window I have watched the parade of passing seasons touch our farmstead with contrasting gentleness and fury. I have listened for the sound of the tractor bringing my farmer home from plowing, cultivating and harvesting, where free enterprise encourages excellence, progressiveness and enhances modern living. I have watched our three children one by one get behind their daddy as they fed the cattle and hogs, milk the cows and watched as their stride matched daddy's long stride and suddenly energized with the refreshing enthusiasm of youth each took over the lead and then they were gone to begin new lives of their own choosing. Now many months later through this same kitchen window, I watched our grandchildren hunt Easter eggs on our lawn after church on Sunday, and it is great being a grandmother. Even as a grandmother I can reach out and claim my plateau in life. If I don't like myself, I am free to do something about it. I can extend my education. I have access to public libraries, extension clubs, adult education classes. I can enroll in a college or a university or take courses in continuing education. I have freedom of choice, freedom to be the mother and grandmother I want to be. I need to remember that freedom is not only my heritage, it is my responsibility. I am deeply aware that as a 1980 Mother of the Year I will be serving as an emissary of the most revered and cherished sorority of women in Nebraska. As a mother, grandmother, Nebraska Mother of the Year, I need to read up, speak up and act on issues which will affect my children and your children, my grandchildren and your grandchildren. I need to rededicate myself, work and pray to keep freedom ringing so that our children and children's children may continue to enjoy the good life in Nebraska. Thank you.