

April 18, 1980

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting his excellency, the Governor of the Great State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: The committee will proceed with the Governor. The Governor of the State of Nebraska, Charles Thone.

GOVERNOR THONE: President Luedtke, Speaker Marvel, members of the 86th Legislature of this Second Session and fellow Nebraskans, it has been a long day, tough, busy session and I shall be brief. First, I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your leadership, for your skill and your patience. Yours is not an easy job nor one that is always appreciated but all your hours of dedication and hard work are sincerely appreciated, I assure you, by all Nebraskans. Dick told me yesterday or the day before when things weren't all kind of lining up that his luck wouldn't be half bad if it would just improve about 50% and by the way, Richard, don't you worry about all that smiling. I noticed where the former Lieutenant Governor chided you on that a little over the weekend. So, as you know, my Mother thinks I smile way too much, contrary to what I hear from some of the folk around here. I want to also give a special thanks to each and every one of the members of this Unicameral, certainly your Chairman, your floor leaders and I want you to know that I respect each and every one of you very much. I have been in your legislative shoes. Oh, be it in another form, in a rather strange setting referred to some as the only free circus left in Eastern America. I have also had some of my good friends back there indicate that they thought that if you gave the Sahara Desert to the Congress of the United States for management they would run out of sand in about two years, but back to Lincoln and reality and to be sure we haven't always agreed and I guess that was most dramatically established on the floor today. But I firmly believe that the public interest has been very sincerely served by all of you. I respect your sometimes marching to a different drummer and it is my request that you, as I am sure almost all of you do, allow me like courtesy and respect. Someone said it well once, they only have the right to criticize who have the right to help. They only have the right to criticize who have the heart to help, and so be it. I bow to no one for being a fiscal conservative. It is tough to say no, no, no, but it is many times also very responsible. I believe firmly, contrary to some with big axes to grind for one reason or the other, that Nebraska government and its institutions overall are first-rate. To a vocal few I say, throw away your hammers and get a horn. Let's on occasion accentuate the positive. That also doesn't mean

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