

April 9, 1981

that they should come from unanticipated sources and unexpected times is also clear. A reporter asked me yesterday, "Doesn't this Polish crisis coming as it does in the first two months of President Reagan's administration, isn't it rather inopportune?" Well, most problems are inopportune. I have never found one that comes at just the right time to solve it and I am sure you haven't either. But politics to me, whether in my service in the state legislature or as Governor or as a United State Senator or as Secretary of State is the noblest of professions. It has fulfilled my life. It has given me opportunities for service that I would never have dreamed of twenty-five, thirty-five years ago. I hope I have discharged those responsibilities in the interest of my people and the country as a whole, but whatever it is, it has made a life worth living. I remember when this Unicameral Legislature was created. I was a student of Political Science and History at the time and I remember George Norris and his hopes for the Unicameral Legislature, and it was supposed to be such a good idea that eventually all fifty states would embrace it. Well, forty-nine haven't. Maybe you have the answers to why not, but in any case, it was representative of the kind of creativity and innovation that the American political system makes possible and it still makes that possible and we are now engaged in Washington, not I, I am out of political life although I hope not out of public life but we are at one of those points in our political lives when we are forced because of the change in administration, the change in political philosophy and control in Washington, to review and reassess the validity of things that we have been doing together through this federal political system of ours and so you will be engaged in it. The President has proposed, but as you know, the Congress disposes and the Congress disposes in accordance with the inputs that are made to Congress through state legislators, through politicians at the state and local levels, through the people through their interest groups of one kind or another spread across this land. So we are going through a period when innovation, creativity, receptiveness to change are fundamental to the future that will emerge out of this period of ferment and debate and disagreement. So I will watch this now once again after thirty-five years as an observer and I will watch the George Norris' of this day come forward with the ideas that he so creatively fathered way back then, and out of this I am confident will come a healthier, leaner, more effective political system serving the needs of our people whatever their status and wherever in this country more effectively and better than before. That is the nature of the system. It existed for a hundred and fifty years before I entered it and it will exist after I leave it and