

November 13, 1982

presented to Emory Burnett in recognition of twenty-six years of meritorious service to the Nebraska Unicameral on this thirteenth day of November, 1982." Emory.

EMORY BURNETT: Thank you, Howard.

SENATOR LAMB: We appreciate your long years of service and there have been a couple of speakers that have already lauded you but you were over doing your work, taking the bill over to the Governor, so you missed out on that. You will have to listen to the record.

PRESIDENT: Emory, would you like to speak?

EMORY BURNETT: As everyone knows, I have always believed in doing my job rather than being praised. That is what I was doing.

PRESIDENT: Do you care to say anything else, Emory? This is your last chance.

EMORY BURNETT: Well I think there has been a lot of oratory around here this past week. I know you don't want to listen to anything long and drawn out. I would say just a very few things. One, and I'm going to borrow a page from the books of Senator Chambers and Senator Landis on this, I'm going to use some quotations. I have tried to guide myself ever since I read the words that one fairly well-known writer put down in Hamlet. The concluding portion of Polonius' letter of advice or words of advice to his son, Laertes, when the latter was about to depart for Paris. "This above all, to thine own self be true and it must follow as the night the day, that I canst not then be false to any man." I have tried to live by that. I hope you will see it in your hearts to agree that as far as my work here is concerned, I have lived by that. Then to another very well-known writer, I believe that it was Samuel Coleridge in the Garden of Prosperine. Check me on this if I am wrong, Senator Landis. Toward the conclusion he said, "Let there be no sadness of farewell when I depart." He was talking about his death. I'm not ready to talk about my death. I am ready to talk about my departure from here. I hope that on your part there will be happiness for me, that I'm finally able to retire with a secure economic future but I guarantee you that there will be sadness of farewell when I depart. It will be my sadness. I think the next to the last paragraph of that letter that you have will tell you primarily why. I'm going to miss the tremendous people in the Legislature, the legislative staff throughout state government, members of the media and last, but certainly not least, my wonderful, wonderful dedicated friends among the lobbyists. And finally, one more quotation and I would have to go to Bartlett to get any more. I don't have Bartlett here. By someone probably much better known in this country than either Shakespeare or Coleridge, Burl Ives a few years ago, fifteen to twenty years ago, I don't remember when, one of his beautiful ballads included the words, I'll have to paraphrase these for my own case, but the words were, "I said I'd laugh when you left me, but as you walked through