

January 11, 1985

are outlined in the Nebraska Capitol Environs East and South Mall Proposal Report and more visibly seen in the model now on display in the Rotunda. A group, known as the Friends of the Capitol Environs Citizens Committee, funded the document and, in part, funded the charette. The project is viewed as an extremely long-term project, 50 or more years. It is a massive project when you see the model. The citizens committee then approached the board of the Lincoln Foundation for assistance in the implementation of those improvements. The board of directors of the Lincoln Foundation agreed to assist in the implementation until a permanent body was created to carry out the proposed plan. The Lincoln Foundation's motto was a bridge to the future, and the foundation established a joint committee combined of foundation board members and members of the Friends of the Capitol Environs to provide this bridge. It is the intention that this committee function only until the Unicameral establishes a perpetual Capitol environs committee or commission, a body that would supervise the completion of such a project, provide continuous overview of the Capitol and its environs directly and through intergovernmental agreements with the City of Lincoln, or use any vehicle the Unicameral sees fit to enhance or preserve the Capitol environs. Such an action would perpetuate the spirit of this body's 1977 LB 172 which was introduced by then Senator Douglas Bereuter. In keeping with the bridge to the future philosophy the foundation has authorized our committee to contract for architectural services. I am pleased to announce that just last month the committee has engaged the services of Alfieri, Sinclair and Hille along with Kim Todd and Associates for the development of schematic design documents for all phases of both the east and south malls, as well as the detail cost estimates for phase one of each mall. Senator Vickers, the Norris group obviously is aware that phase one of the east J Street mall envisions the placement of a George Norris statute or a memorial of some type, as well as the vacation of the street between 16th and 17th. Our committee has already received indication that none of the property owners abutting that block will object to its closure. We'll thereby enhance both the Norris memorial and the Capitol environs. I want to thank the Norris Commemorative Committee for allowing me some of their time to address you. I need to acknowledge, I believe, the presence, in the back of the Chambers, of the Dean of the Architectural College, Cecil Steward, Thomas Laging, one of the professors that worked on the charette,