

been 5, 10 or 15 people that have had an unusual influence in shaping our attitudes, our beliefs, our values and making us the kind of people that we are. Now as we become adults we continue to encounter people who have become very special to us through the years. Although they might not have had the impact on our personality, as do the great teachers of our youth, we recognize immediately that had we known them then and had we had a special relationship with them then, they would have. Bernard Wishnow was such a man. He did extraordinary things in his lifetime. My contact with him was only during the last seven years of his lifetime, as was that of many of you, during the implementation phase of the Nebraska Ethics in Government Act. Now as many of you know one of the most far-reaching pieces of legislation we have ever passed here is the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Act, guided through the Legislature by Roland Luedtke's sure hand and supported and signed by Governor Exon. The act was unquestionably the most comprehensive and significant legislation in the area of campaign finance reporting, lobby disclosure and conflicts of interest disclosure ever passed in Nebraska. In the wake of Watergate the public was insisting that we pass disclosure bills to let them know the government was operating honestly. The Accountability and Disclosure Act was an appropriate and necessary response to that need, but it was complex, it was extremely controversial, it imposed disclosure regulations and requirements on public officials and lobbyists and others that resisted them with all of their might. It was the last thing anyone in his right mind would want to implement. That became Bernie Wishnow's job. There could not have been a better person in the entire midwest to have done it. Bernie was ideally suited to the job. He had the intellectual integrity of the finest philosopher, the patience of a saint, the meticulousness of the finest lawyer and the dedication of the first principles of honesty in government of the most ethical among us. He guided our State Ethics Commission through the first seven years with tact, understanding and a sureness of hand that never failed him and that never failed us. His early death was a tragedy, but so often it takes a tragedy for us to fully recognize what we have lost and what we continue to have. There are others, of course, who will carry on Bernie's work, not just in the Accountability and Disclosure Commission, but throughout state government. Bernie reminds us, through his work, of the extremely high quality of people that we have working throughout state government, in