

February 5, 1985

forget some of the companies that have contributed a great deal to our economy and to the stability of that economy. While I am speaking I'm going to ask the Pages to pass out a sample of a product that is produced here in Nebraska. The product was donated by Metz Baking Company whose home office is in Sioux City, Iowa, however, they are better known as Old Home Bread. They are a company that has been affiliated, or that I've been affiliated with for quite some time. Metz has plants from Minnesota to Utah, but does have four here in Nebraska. They have one plant in my district, up at South Sioux City. They have another plant in Senator Hall's district, there in Omaha. The third plant they have is in Senator Smith's district, out in Hastings. They also have a plant in Senator Morehead's district, in Beatrice, where this particular product that they are passing out today was produced. These four Nebraska plants produce almost 48 million...or did produce almost \$48 million in sales in 1984. The company employs over 700 people here in Nebraska, with a payroll of over \$12.5 million. They have employees in every district in our state. I was even able to find employees out in Senator Baack's district, clear out in Dix, that are employed by this company. The additional economic contributions include the fact that they purchased over \$6 million worth of flour here in Nebraska last year. So, as we look at the specific product that we are passing out and that we are going to share with you today, it is a rather unique product. It is produced in Beatrice. It is sold in all 50 states. It is exported to Canada, Belgium, Italy and Germany. The only liquid, and this may catch the attention of some, the only liquid used in the production of this particular fruit cake is bourbon, rum and brandy. No other liquids are used in the production of this particular product. They are the largest nonbeverage user of alcohol in Nebraska. I believe that a company that uses our agricultural products to this extent, who produces basic food for our people, and bread being our staff of life as we've known for some time, that employs as many of our citizens, and who brings a positive national and international image to our state, deserves the recognition of this body. I probably, at this point, should also apologize that the media will probably pick up on the fact that there are 49 fruit cakes in the Chamber today, and you will all have to bear with me on that one. I thank you and would appreciate it if you would recognize a company that I feel has contributed a great deal to this state.