

the prairie of Nebraska to be with us again, former Governor Frank Morrison. Thank you. It is nice to have you back in town, Governor. Next resolution.

GOVERNOR FRANK MORRISON: (Not speaking at microphone.)

PRESIDENT: That happens, that is part of the system, I guess.

GOVERNOR FRANK MORRISON: (Not speaking at microphone.)

PRESIDENT: Nothing ventured, nothing gained, Senator. Mr. Clerk, what is our next resolution?

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 93 by Senator Pirsch. (Read.) That is found on page 1662, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. Fellow Senators, on October 12, 1984, Congress passed and the President signed the \$100 million Victims of Crime Act of 1984. Not since New Zealand enacted its victim compensation law in 1963, thereby inaugurating the worldwide victims movement, has a national government undertaken such a strong a commitment to repair the harm that crime inflicts on its victims. The law was enacted almost unnoticed by the general public. I wonder how many of you were aware of it. And that was mainly because it was part of a larger crime package attached to a huge year-end appropriations bill for Congress. The VOCA program will be funded with up to a \$100 million derived mostly from fines imposed on federal offenders. A minimum of 45 percent of the fund will go to the states and from there to local programs of victim assistance such as nonprofit Rape Crisis Centers, our own Victim Witness Service Centers as we have in Kearney, Lincoln, and Omaha, and that of women shelters. Such programs may actually receive as much as 70 percent of the fund in the first year or two. Though thousands of these service programs have been established over the past decade, the great majority are still struggling and their overburdened volunteers and underpaid staff can rarely provide all the services needed by the victims they serve, much less reach out to all the victims that need help in their communities, and VOCA will help to change all that. Now up to 50 percent of the crime victims fund will support