

January 8, 1986

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I will be brief. The thing that makes me angry about this discussion is our discussion in front of the people of the State of Nebraska saying, we are a bunch of scoundrels, there is a lot of skullduggery going on in the Legislature, but it isn't I, it is not me, it is those other guys and gals. I look at six people in front of me. I look at them individually and I haven't heard any complaints about them. I haven't heard any complaints about my conduct. And, Senator Beutler, or anybody else, if you have had complaints about my conduct, you say it and you say it on this floor and I will handle it and I will deny it, perhaps, if you have any, but I don't think you have any. Who has been conducting themselves in an incredible way in this Legislature? The present members. That is what I want to know. I don't think there are any. As I look each of you in the eye, I would not criticize you and I don't expect and I am not admitting anything to the people in the State of Nebraska as far as my conduct is concerned and I will not admit it on the part of any personal person...anyone personally in this body. I don't hear it. Maybe it is there or maybe it is not. The thing that we hear is, I don't agree with the Legislature in doing something that they did, for example, raising the taxes from 19 to 20 percent. Those are items. Those are not our personal conduct and I think, we, by discussing this on this floor and saying we are going to make the rules that are so good that you are going to like us better, I don't think that is true. We are representatives of people in the State of Nebraska and we owe those people an ear. We owe them an ear to their problems as members of this Legislature and when we say to them, you have to come down here individually, people in my district, 400 miles to talk to me personally instead of having somebody hired to keep track of what is going on in the Legislature and let you know what is going on and I will not talk to a representative of yours because he or she is called a lobbyist. I think that is bad. Lobbyists have a reason for being here. There are groups across the state who cannot come in every day we are in session to watch what is happening to them so they hire them as lobbyists and we, we take the attitude that lobbyists are bad. Lobbyists are as bad as you let them be bad to you. If you kowtow to a lobbyist, you shouldn't be here. I don't think that we do kowtow to lobbyists. When the lobbyist buys me a free meal and says, I would like to have you support such a bill, and