

April 16, 1986

why it is worth the effort, I am reminded of a different and unexplainable event. One morning, shortly after I finished the United States Army's jump school, I was bragging about the bravery needed to make the five required daytime static line jumps. And my somewhat irreverent and disrespectful sergeant listened patiently to my story, and then observed, Lieutenant, you are well on your way to becoming a qualified and accomplished combat parachutist. In fact, he said to me, you can lay claim to the fact that you have made five night jumps as well because I notice that you always jump with your eyes closed. Having been properly reduced in size, I countered with the only defense that I had left, and that was that, well, at least I had jumped. And you, as well, the representatives of the people who are democracy's last line of defense, have demonstrated courage in your public service. Sometimes I may accuse you of not having your eyes open. But I will never take from you the gratitude I feel for your willingness to jump. As you started this legislative session, there were many knowledgeable and cynical people who predicted that little would come from your efforts. In my opinion, you have proved that the cynics were wrong. You have succeeded in the following key areas. In the area of education, you have passed an important and necessary teacher retirement bill. You have passed and enacted into law, finally in this state, public radio for the people of Nebraska. You have passed, in the area of tax, the homestead exemption bill. You have passed a reasonable and responsible bank tax bill. You have passed a reasonable and responsible insurance premium tax and you even expanded the base with LB 1027. In the area of agriculture, even as amended I believe that the Agriculture Revitalization and Stabilization Act will be important in helping Nebraska farmers. You have started us on our way to creating a food processing institute at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. You have passed into law the Farmstead Act, as maligned as it is, again I believe an important tool for the farmers in trouble in Nebraska. You have passed, as well, a bank law, LB 983, that in my judgement will help and help immeasurably the rural banks of Nebraska. In the area of economic development, you have passed a controversial but important telephone deregulation bill that sets Nebraska apart. I have heard, in the past four years since I have either been a candidate or I've been Governor, people say, why don't we do what South Dakota did with their deregulation of the credit card industry for the purpose of bringing in Citicorp and creating several thousand jobs? And the jobs in the telephone deregulation, in my opinion, is broader and will do far more than what South Dakota has done in