

November 20, 1986

Senator Vickers and I were not on the same side of an issue. But never during the entire 8 years did we have any personal disagreement. I don't know, Tom, whether you came my way, or I came your way, but I think that over the years we did come together, and I think probably because each of us are such mellow, understanding, nonviolent individuals we did work out a compromise where we were able to work together on a number of issues. I know that the people of his district, as Senator Morehead said, made another choice. That is their right, and we accept that in the elective process. But I do not believe that we are going to hear the last of Tom Vickers. And I know that the people of the State of Nebraska, I know that the people of his district, I know that those of us who are his colleagues, and the people around the area are better off for the fact that Tom Vickers served in this body. I have, upon many occasions, gone out and campaigned for incumbents. And I have never campaigned for an incumbent that I didn't really agree with. I campaigned for Tom Vickers, and I'd do it again. I know that that is not going to handicap me, nor is it going to handicap any of the rest of us in working with his successor. You have to stand up from time to time for those ideas, and those individuals, and those concepts that you believe to be right. And if it, in the process, causes you a little bit of inconvenience, that is the way it is going to be. Tom, I would like to have you come forward at this time and accept this token of our respect for you. (Applause.)

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you. I want you to know that I didn't move, Loran moved. If you'll believe that, you'll believe anything else. I want you to know that it has been a privilege to serve the State of Nebraska for the last 8 years, and it's been a privilege to know each one of you. I hope that we are all friends. I consider it a great honor to have had the opportunity to work with all of you. I would like to leave you with a quote from Benjamin Franklin, and I quote, "In free governments, the rulers are the servants and the people are the superiors and sovereigns. For the former, therefore, to return among the later is not to degrade them but to promote them." Thank you. (Applause.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: I think all of us felt...you may be seated, please, felt more comfortable when Tom was on our side than when he was on the other side. I always did. Senator Labedz, would you please come forward.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you. It is my distinct pleasure today to