

November 20, 1986

SENATOR DECAMP: I'm sure you'll have many opportunities.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, John. (Applause.)

SENATOR DECAMP: This is one of those honors I really hadn't truly planned on. Somebody asked me the other night, they said, well, you are going to be leaving, and in your 16 years what do you consider was your greatest accomplishment, or what are you most proud of? And I think I'll tell you because I doubt you've ever heard of it. It wasn't the multibanks, or the ton-mile taxes, or the 999s, or any of those things, the municipal power pools, the lemon laws, the litter laws. It wasn't any of those wars. It was in my first year and very early in my career. I had come directly from Viet Nam. I was a soldier over there, you know, still wearing my fatigues and combat boots, which some people found a little offensive, but which was about all I could afford back then at \$400 a month. In my first weeks of the Legislature, I introduced a resolution. The resolution said there are problems with the war in Viet Nam, please, Mr. President, either let us win or get us out. Now, this is 1971, early, and I'm going to tell you what occurred. The Legislature, by a vote of the entire Legislature, and very few of you are still here from then, voted not only that they would not allow a public hearing on the resolution, but they would not allow the resolution to even be heard within the walls or room of the Nebraska State Capitol. I think it might have been the first time that they'd ever voted such a thing. I was kind of feeling bad and depressed at what had occurred and was walking down that same alley I've walked down so many times here, and there was a chap sitting up here where the news people sit, a guy named Don Walton, you've read his name. He used to cover the Legislature. He said, what's wrong, John? I said, yeah, they won't even look at it, they won't even listen, they won't even allow me to tell them what is going on. And he said, all their resolution said was that you couldn't hold a hearing inside the Capitol; I know you don't believe it; go back and check. He said, they didn't say anything about outside the Capitol. Gave me an idea. With the help of Don Walton and some others, we set up a hearing on that resolution to be held on the steps of the Capitol. So, on the appointed day, with the Legislature sitting in here debating, as Senator Kennedy, there was Senator Kennedy at that time said, dealing with important matters, while we were outside. I asked any senators that had the courage to walk out there, and see if anybody wanted to come hear our resolution, asked them to come out. Four other senators stepped forward; an old man with grey hair, named Terry