

December 5, 1986

The Chair recognizes the Sergeant-at-Arms.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting the Governor of Nebraska.

(Gavel.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Ladies and gentlemen, the Governor of the State of Nebraska.

GOVERNOR BOB KERREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suppose I should personally apologize to Speaker Nichol for making his life miserable lately. Members of the Legislature, a couple of weeks ago four members of this body voted to recommend that I call a special session or that I consider calling a special session to deal with, not only the current year's fiscal problems, but because of the forecast of revenue for next year, to some extent, next year's as well. And I must honestly tell you that my first reaction was to say no. In fact, I must honestly tell you that I said some rather impolite and rather unkind things, fortunately in private, in the aftermath of that request. But in considering what the senators were asking and in taking a look calmly at the current year's fiscal condition and the forecast of revenue for next year and taking fully into account that I am busy myself with rather mundane things such as looking for a house, trying to find employment and I have a natural tendency as a result of that to want to take a walk from the whole thing. Taking that fully into account, it seems to me that there is a considerable germ of truth in the idea that is proposed to me by the four senators, that while we do not have a fiscal crisis, that is to say that the Revenue Forecasting Committee has not forecast revenue down for the current fiscal year, creating the dilemma that would normally lead us inescapably into a special session, while that is not the case, taking the revenue forecast for '87-88 and reflecting it into the current year, one most assuredly can say that there is a problem that could be addressed in special session. And while it doesn't carry with it the normal urgency that would lead us into special session, it is a problem and I am inclined, as a result of being still the Governor of this state, to say that we should attempt to solve that problem. I have suggested to you that it can be solved in a couple of ways. I have suggested that we solve the problem in the first instance by reducing the current year's appropriation by approximately six and a half million dollars. I have attempted to apply those reductions in an equitable fashion. That does not mean that the burden is