

to eliminate this and that deduction or exemption. I believe that Nebraska should write its own income tax code and should not have it in any way taxed to what Washington, D.C., says that we should do. I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to identify some things that I believe that are important. I hope that the inconvenience of having to come here to reduce the appropriation level in '86-87 will not, as it almost did to me, cause you to avoid our collective responsibility in dealing with a very real and present problem. Finally, since it's my last opportunity to address you, one of the myths that I had coming into public service was that people in public service were somehow venal and somehow nasty people, and I came into public service assuming that to be in the Legislature was a relatively easy and shiftless thing to do. I tell you now that as I stand before you and consider how difficult it is to say this is what I believe, this is what I think in the face of people who want you to go one way or the other, that I have a great deal of admiration for each and every one of you even though I may disagree frequently and violently at times with your position. My admiration for your willingness to stand and say this is what I believe has shattered the myth that I carried into this job in the first place. There are great and abiding problems in this state and our task as we have been elected by the people is to try to confront those problems and with compassion and with realism and with an earnestness that will cause us to be continued, continue to have the respect and the consent of the people that we serve. I thank you for letting me speak to you and for the honor of serving with you. Thank you. (applause)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. Governor, we appreciate your coming and speaking to us again and realizing this may be your last welcoming us to another session, appreciate your visiting us this morning.

Mr. Clerk, would you like to introduce the bills, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have new bills. (Read LBs 1-3 by title for the first time. See page 6 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Cal Carsten, would you like to have a Reference Committee? We could stand at ease for a few moments if you would like to do that.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes. Mr. President, I would like to have...(interruption)