

March 6, 1986

SPEAKER NICHOL PRESIDING

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Microphone not activated.) ...the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature. We have with us this morning Reverend Stanley Schrag with the Grace Community Evangelical Church in Lincoln. Would you please rise for the morning invocation.

REVEREND SCHRAG: (Prayer offered.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you, Reverend Schrag, for coming this morning to be with us. Please return again some day, will you. Thank you. Roll call, please. I understand Reverend Goll and Senator Scofield have something to talk about this morning. Would you two senators please come to the front and we'll put you on here shortly. Ladies and gentlemen, the honorable James Goll from Tekamah, Nebraska.

SENATOR GOLL: It is my pleasure to read to you this morning. Susette LaFlesche Tibbles was the first Indian woman to be elected to the Nebraska Hall of Fame. Her Indian name was Bright Eyes. Truly a native Nebraskan, she was born in an Omaha Indian earth lodge in 1854, the year that Nebraska became a territory and was opened to white settlement. She was the daughter of Joseph LaFlesche, who was the son of a French fur trader and an Indian mother. Called Iron eye, her father was the last recognized chief of the Omaha Indians. Her mother was Mary Gale LaFlesche, who was the daughter of an army surgeon stationed at Ft. Atkinson now near Ft. Calhoun, and an Indian woman named Nicomi. Joseph LaFlesche, Chief Iron Eye, knew that the old order would soon be gone. With the white man's desire for land, the coming of the railroad, and the slaughter of the buffalo, the changes that would come would be many and great. When the flood of white men did come, Susette was enrolled in a mission school on the reservation and was later sent to a girls' school in New Jersey. She returned to the reservation to teach school. When the Ponca Indians were forcibly removed from their homes on the Niobrara in 1877 and taken to Oklahoma, she accompanied her father on a visit of inquiry to them. She undoubtedly saw poverty and illness. Wherein...within a year of their removal, a third of the Ponca tribe was dead. Susette LaFlesche became a spokeswoman for Indian rights. As an interpreter she charmed American and European audiences alike. Through articles and speeches dramatizing the Ponca