

children and their families, and her husband, to please stand and be recognized at this time. I mentioned that I knew Dr. Lois Oppen Schwab. We have been good friends since we were students in Lincoln High School. She is the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Home Economics at the University of Nebraska and I am very pleased and proud to present to you the 1987 Nebraska Mother of the Year, Dr. Lois Oppen Schwab.

DR. LOIS OPPEN SCHWAB: Thank you, Senator Marsh. Thank you. I think I represent a group of mothers across the state that are doing more than just working outside the home. They are also carrying on the dual responsibilities of making sure that their families are faring in the best ways. Because today as we look at the families in the United States, about 56 percent of the mothers are carrying on with outside responsibilities, mostly in gainful employment. I represent, also, a group of rural mothers because today in Nebraska we find that 41 percent of the farm women are working in gainful employment, leaving their farm homes every morning to participate. Nationally, we find that the figures show us that 45 percent of the four-year olds in our society have mothers who are working, and these are good women. They are women who are working together with their husbands, with their families to create a good life, a kind of life that we want for people in Nebraska. But they also need help, and I ask that you members of the Unicameral think about some of the ways in which family life can be strengthened as you work together on legislation in this state. I am concerned that we have strong families because families are facing difficulties. Families are hurting. We have many needs. We have need for good child care across the state. We need education, education for parenting, education for family life, education so that we can have the very best for our people because the family is a basic unit of a society. It is where the family members have their roots. So, together, we, from the University, we, from the mothers groups, we, from all walks of life, can work together so that we can have the best for our families, help them to be strong. This we ask together.

PRESIDENT: We are very pleased and happy to have the Mother of the Year with us and the Young Mother of the Year. Would you please escort them from the Chamber.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett, for what purpose do you rise?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Mr. President, I rise on a point of personal privilege.