

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 9, 2002

of Parole, the Office of Public Counsel, Public Employees Retirement Systems, Department of Roads, Southeast Community College, State Fire Marshal, the Tax Research Council of Nebraska, and University of Nebraska. All of those reports, Mr. President, will be on file and available for member review in the Clerk's Office.

And the final communication this morning, this from Senator Coordsen, as Chair of the board, regarding the appointments of Senator Synowiecki to appropriate Standing Committees. That also will be inserted in the Journal, Mr. President. And that's all that I have at this time. (Legislative Journal pages 88-112.)

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Chair would now recognize the Speaker, Speaker Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I would like to welcome you back. It wasn't all that long ago that we were here and you did wonderful work in Special Session. I know that you are just as anxious to come back and get to things that are nonbudgetary related and I am sure that we will get a chance to do that. This morning I would like to take the opportunity to introduce to you our newest colleague, Senator John Synowiecki. Senator Synowiecki, would you please stand and be welcomed to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Synowiecki, we asked Senator McDonald, when she came into the body, to write a check for \$171 million. She found a way to come up with \$171 million. You are on the hook for \$50 million. To put that into perspective for what we do, that's about one week's worth of spending in the state of Nebraska. If you would give us your salary, however, it would take you 4,200 years to pay off that figure. That's the sort of perspective you're going to have to have in the Legislature. It's all a matter of perspective. Members, thank you so much for coming back and, obviously, this session has got a lot of challenges ahead of it. What we do between now and the Forecasting Board will be a lot of the meat of this session of work. Once the Forecasting Board meets, our focus will turn back to the budget. And we don't know what that Forecasting Board will say. We don't know what those numbers will be, but whatever they are, I am very confident that all of