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FLOOR DEBATE

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state senators have resulted in immeasurable contributions to our great state. In 1992, Senator Jim Jones petitioned onto the ballot after the runner-up in the May primary withdrew from the race. He went on to defeat the winner of the primary. Senator Jones, you've consistently supported and fought for beginning farmers and natural resource issues with passion and with straight talk. Senator Floyd Vrtiska, your 24 years of service on the Pawnee County Board of Commissioners has provided all of us with direct insight to the issues and challenges facing counties today. The past 12 years have brought wonderful accomplishments to southeast Nebraska, I would suggest in large part because of your efforts. You successfully championed Peru State College, and during your two terms as Chairman of the Business and Labor Committee you provided important leadership on many important issues. Senator Paul Hartnett, the college professor, is the dean of this outgoing group of senators, having served since 1984. Senator Hartnett, you have been an important voice during the many contentious debates about tax policy. You've championed legislation on behalf of the Athletic Commission, in keeping with your champion career in boxing, for of course I can only assume your boxing record was that of a champion since you've kept it one of the great secrets of our day. (Laughter) Senator Gene Tyson, to borrow a name coined by Senator Chambers, "Baron" Tyson, you are known for your common-sense approach and your tightfisted fiscal conservatism. You have made it no secret when you feel passionately about an issue. Senator Chip Maxwell, as one whose ideas have often been ahead of their time, we thank you for planting seeds that will undoubtedly take root to influence future laws. We appreciate your service and your desire to put family first. Senator Mark Quandahl, as another young senator with impressive ideas, you're going to be sincerely missed. Your six years of commitment to our state and to your Omaha district are surpassed only by your commitment to a much small group of constituents--your family--and we commend you for that commitment. Senator Curt Bromm, in 1992 you successfully challenged an incumbent senator who served the district for 24 years. During your first year, you challenged the Legislature's leadership to raise the bar on ethical behavior. Your principles led you to an esteemed position as Speaker of the Legislature. As such, you shouldered the responsibility of setting the priorities for the sessions.