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Floor Debate
January 08, 2015

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SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: GOOD MORNING. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE SECOND DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS PASTOR TODD HILKEMANN, CRAGMOR CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, GUEST OF SENATOR HILKEMANN. PLEASE RISE.

PASTOR HILKEMANN: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, PASTOR HILKEMANN. I CALL THE SECOND DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION, TO ORDER. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. (DOCTOR OF THE DAY INTRODUCED.) MR. CLERK, DO YOU HAVE ANY CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL?

CLERK: I HAVE NO CORRECTIONS, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR GARRETT FOR A MOTION TO ADOPT TEMPORARY RULES.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT THE RULES AS NOW IN OUR POSSESSION BE ADOPTED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE PERMANENT RULES ARE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO RULE 2, SECTION 1 PROVIDED THAT THE TEMPORARY RULES SHALL NOT CONTINUE AFTER THE TWELFTH LEGISLATIVE DAY.

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SPEAKER HADLEY: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY RULES. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK, DO YOU HAVE ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: I DO, MR. PRESIDENT. I HAVE A SERIES OF APPOINTMENT LETTERS FOR GOVERNOR HEINEMAN: APPOINTMENTS MADE TO THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, TO THE NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION, TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING, TO THE CRIME VICTIM'S REPARATIONS COMMITTEE, TO THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD, TO THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD, TO THE STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD, TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION, THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT, THE NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION, THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT, THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION FUND BOARD, OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION, THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS AND FUNDS, THE STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION, THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION FUND BOARD, THE NEBRASKA INVESTMENT COUNCIL, TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, TO THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD, THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, THE NEBRASKA TOURISM COMMISSION. THOSE ALL ACKNOWLEDGED WILL BE REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING CONFIRMATION HEARINGS. MR. PRESIDENT, I RECEIVED A SERIES OF REPORTS FROM VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES SINCE THE LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED SINE DIE IN APRIL OF 2014. THOSE REPORTS ARE ON FILE ON THE LEGISLATIVE WEB SITE AND AVAILABLE FOR MEMBER REVIEW. I HAVE A SERIES OF REPORTS FROM THE VARIOUS STANDING COMMITTEES REGARDING DISPOSITIONS OF INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTIONS. THOSE ARE OFFERED BY THE RESPECTIVE CHAIRS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES. MR. PRESIDENT, SOME ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF COMMUNICATIONS: A COMMUNICATION FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA, FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA, FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, AND FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE. THOSE WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGAIN AVAILABLE AND ON FILE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE. ANNOUNCEMENTS, MR. PRESIDENT: SENATOR COASH HAS BEEN SELECTED AS VICE CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES. AN ANNOUNCEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE FRESHMAN CAUCUS: FRESHMEN MEMBERS WILL MEET AT 11:00 IN THE SENATE LOUNGE FOR PURPOSES OF OFFICE ASSIGNMENT. FRESHMEN MEMBERS WILL MEET IN THE SENATE LOUNGE AT 11:00 FOR PURPOSES OF DESIGNATING OFFICES. PLEASE, THIS IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY. NO STAFF. MEMBERS ONLY IN THE SENATE LOUNGE AT 11:00. MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE ALSO RECEIVED THE PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON

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COMMITTEES WITH REGARDS TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF VARIOUS MEMBERS TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES. AND THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE AT THIS TIME, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 23-48.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO INTRODUCTION OF NEW BILLS. MR. CLERK.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, NEW BILLS. (READ LB1-61 BY TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.) THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE AT THIS TIME, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 48-58.) [LB1 LB2 LB3 LB4 LB5 LB6 LB7 LB8 LB9 LB10 LB11 LB12 LB13 LB14 LB15 LB16 LB17 LB18 LB19 LB20 LB21 LB22 LB23 LB24 LB25 LB26 LB27 LB28 LB29 LB30 LB31 LB32 LB33 LB34 LB35 LB36 LB37 LB38 LB39 LB40 LB41 LB42 LB43 LB44 LB45 LB46 LB47 LB48 LB49 LB50 LB51 LB52 LB53 LB54 LB55 LB56 LB57 LB58 LB59 LB60 LB61]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. CLERK FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE MORE NEW BILLS. (READ LB62-79 BY TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.) AND THAT'S ALL I HAVE AT THIS TIME, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 58-61.) [LB62 LB63 LB64 LB65 LB66 LB67 LB68 LB69 LB70 LB71 LB72 LB73 LB74 LB75 LB76 LB77 LB78 LB79]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES MR. CLERK.

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR NORDQUIST WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A MEETING OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS COMMITTEE UNDER THE NORTH BALCONY AT 10:45. IN ADDITION, REVENUE WILL MEET AT 11:00 A.M. IN ROOM 1524.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE PRESIDENT RECOGNIZES THE CLERK.

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, MORE NEW BILLS. (READ LB80-102 BY TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.) AND THAT'S ALL I HAVE AT THIS TIME, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 61-65.) [LB80 LB81 LB82 LB83 LB84 LB85 LB86 LB87 LB88 LB89 LB90 LB91 LB92 LB93 LB94 LB95 LB96 LB97 LB98 LB99 LB100 LB101 LB102]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. I DO HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT. THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES WILL BEGIN AT 1:30 THIS AFTERNOON. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE AGENDA, MANY OF YOU ARE LISTED TO SERVE ON AN ESCORT COMMITTEE. IF YOU ARE LISTED TO SERVE ON AN ESCORT COMMITTEE AND YOU WILL NOT BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON, PLEASE NOTIFY

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EITHER THE CLERK OR MY OFFICE BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR LUNCH. THANK YOU. THE CLERK IS RECOGNIZED FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, A REMINDER THAT THE REVENUE COMMITTEE WILL MEET AT 11:00 A.M. IN ROOM 1524.

CLERK: MEMBERS, FRESHMAN MEMBERS SHOULD REPORT TO THE SENATE LOUNGE IMMEDIATELY FOR OFFICE ASSIGNMENT. FRESHMAN MEMBERS TO THE SENATE LOUNGE, PLEASE. MEMBERS ONLY.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE CLERK.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, NEW BILLS. (READ LB103-113 BY TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.) RESOLUTIONS, MR. PRESIDENT. NEW RESOLUTIONS: LR1, IT'S BY SENATOR WATERMEIER; LR2 THROUGH LR6 ARE BY SENATOR DAVIS. THOSE WILL BE LAID OVER AT THIS TIME. ANNOUNCEMENTS: SENATOR DAVIS HAS BEEN SELECTED VICE CHAIR OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS COMMITTEE. EDUCATION COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TOMORROW ON JANUARY 9 AT 9:00. RETIREMENT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW...NEVER MIND. COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES WILL MEET UPON ADJOURNMENT IN ROOM 1524. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 65-71.) [LB103 LB104 LB105 LB106 LB107 LB108 LB109 LB110 LB111 LB112 LB113 LR1 LR2 LR3 LR4 LR5 LR6]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR WATERMEIER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR WATERMEIER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I MOVE THAT A SERIES OF COMMITTEES BE APPOINTED TO ESCORT THE VARIOUS STATE AND CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING THEIR OATH OF OFFICE.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR WATERMEIER. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE MOTION TO APPOINT ESCORT COMMITTEES FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATE OFFICERS FOR INAUGURATION PURPOSES THIS AFTERNOON. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE; OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. AGAIN, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON AND YOU'RE ON AN ESCORT COMMITTEE, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN FIND A REPLACEMENT. MR. CLERK, DO YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS FOR THE RECORD?

CLERK: JUST ONE LAST, MR. PRESIDENT, BEFORE THE PRIORITY MOTION, THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AGAIN WILL MEET UPON ADJOURNMENT IN

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ROOM 1524. A PRIORITY MOTION, SENATOR McCOY WOULD MOVE TO RECESS THE BODY UNTIL 1:30 P.M.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE QUESTION IS THE MOTION TO RECESS UNTIL 1:30. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. WE ARE IN RECESS.

RECESS

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: GOOD AFTERNOON. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S PROCEEDINGS. WILL MEMBERS PLEASE CHECK IN. ROLL CALL. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. CLERK, DO YOU HAVE ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENT?

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING AT THIS TIME, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO WELCOME SUCH AN OUTSTANDING CROWD TO THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMING IN TO THE MOST UNIQUE, BEST LEGISLATIVE BODY IN THE UNITED STATES. I WANT TO ESPECIALLY WELCOME THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE WE'RE GOING TO SWEAR IN TODAY. WE KNOW THAT EVERY CANDIDATE DOES NOT WIN ELECTION BY THEMSELVES. THEY HAVE FAMILY, THEY HAVE FRIENDS THAT HELP THEM, WORK WITH THEM, MAKE SURE THAT THEY GET ELECTED. AND I KNOW I SPEAK FOR ALL 49 SENATORS IN SAYING, WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE. THANK YOU. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF SENATOR HILKEMANN, SENATOR KRIST, AND SENATOR KUEHN, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER TO ESCORT THE FAMILY OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. THE CHAIR WILL RECOGNIZE THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT MIKE FOLEY'S WIFE, SUSAN, AND FAMILY.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF SENATOR BOLZ, SENATOR FRIESEN, AND SENATOR McCOLLISTER, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER TO ESCORT THE FAMILY OF THE

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GOVERNOR. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING GOVERNOR-ELECT PETE RICKETTS' WIFE, FIRST LADY SUSANNE SHORE, AND FAMILY.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WE WILL NOW HAVE THE PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS FROM THE NEBRASKA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD. PLEASE RISE.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

SPEAKER HADLEY: WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONIES. AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT. FIRST TIME. SORRY, GOT A LITTLE AHEAD OF MYSELF. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE TO ESCORT THE BOARD OF REGENTS, CONSISTING OF SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, AND SENATOR RIEPE, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE BACK OF THE CHAMBER. RECOGNIZE THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING BOARD OF REGENTS MEMBERS TIM CLARE, ROB SCHAFFER.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF SENATOR KEN HAAR, SENATOR KOLOWSKI, AND SENATOR SULLIVAN, ESCORT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS. THE CHAIR WILL RECOGNIZE THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS PATRICK McPHERSON, MAUREEN NICKELS, MOLLY O'HOLLERAN, AND PATRICIA TIMM.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF SENATOR HANSEN, SENATOR HOWARD, AND SENATOR SMITH, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE BACK OF THE CHAMBER TO ESCORT THE CANDIDATES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION-ELECT. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MEMBER-ELECT CRYSTAL RHOADES.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF SENATOR CRAWFORD, SENATOR KINTNER, AND SENATOR KOLTERMAN, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE BACK OF THE CHAMBER TO ESCORT ATTORNEY

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GENERAL-ELECT DOUG PETERSON. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING ATTORNEY GENERAL-ELECT DOUG PETERSON.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE TO ESCORT THE STATE AUDITOR-ELECT, CONSISTING OF SENATOR LARSON, SENATOR SCHILZ, AND SENATOR SCHNOOR, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING STATE AUDITOR-ELECT CHARLIE JANSSEN.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF SENATOR CRAIGHEAD, SENATOR EBKE, AND SENATOR McCOY, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE BACK OF THE CHAMBER TO ESCORT THE STATE TREASURER. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING STATE TREASURER DON STENBERG.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF SENATOR GLOOR, SENATOR HUGHES, AND SENATOR MORFELD, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER TO ESCORT THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE SPEAKER RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING NEBRASKA'S SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN GALE.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF SENATOR BAKER, SENATOR COOK, SENATOR BURKE HARR, SENATOR LINDSTROM, SENATOR WILLIAMS, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE BACK OF THE CHAMBER TO ESCORT THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE MIKE HEAVICAN.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF SENATOR GARRETT, SENATOR GROENE, AND SENATOR SCHEER, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER AS WE STAND AND ESCORT THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT MIKE FOLEY.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF SENATOR BRASCH, SENATOR CAMPBELL, SENATOR COASH, SENATOR MELLO, AND SENATOR STINNER, PLEASE RETIRE TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER TO ESCORT THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. SPEAKER, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING THE GOVERNOR-ELECT OF THE GREAT STATE OF NEBRASKA, PETE RICKETTS.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONIES. AT THIS TIME I'D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT, MICHAEL HEAVICAN.

CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. WE WILL NOW ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OR REELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS, AND TODAY THAT WOULD BE TIM CLARE AND ROB SCHAFFER. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS.) CONGRATULATIONS. NEXT WE ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO PATRICIA TIMM, MAUREEN NICKELS, MOLLY O'HOLLERAN, AND PATRICK J. McPHERSON, MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.) CONGRATULATIONS. AND NEXT, THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR CRYSTAL RHOADES, A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.) CONGRATULATIONS. NOW THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, DOUG PETERSON. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED ATTORNEY GENERAL.) CONGRATULATIONS. NEXT IS THE NEW STATE AUDITOR, CHARLIE JANSSEN. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED STATE AUDITOR.) CONGRATULATIONS. TREASURER DON STENBERG. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO THE NEWLY ELECTED TREASURER.) CONGRATULATIONS. SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN GALE. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED SECRETARY OF STATE.) CONGRATULATIONS. AND NEXT, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MIKE FOLEY. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO THE NEWLY ELECTED LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.) CONGRATULATIONS.

SPEAKER HADLEY: LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FOLEY, NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DULY INAUGURATED, ONE OF YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATIONS IS

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TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATURE.

PRESIDENT FOLEY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT FOLEY: MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, PLEASE ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE GOVERNOR.

CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WILL NOW DO THAT. GOVERNOR PETE RICKETTS, AND HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED, I BELIEVE, BY HIS WIFE, SUSANNE SHORE. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO THE NEWLY ELECTED GOVERNOR.) CONGRATULATIONS.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: STATE SENATORS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, I PRESENT TO YOU FOR HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS THE GOVERNOR OF THE GREAT STATE NEBRASKA, GOVERNOR PETE RICKETTS.

GOVERNOR RICKETTS: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THANK YOU. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH. THANK YOU. BEFORE WE GET STARTED HERE TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT. A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE OF MANY FOLKS IN THIS BUILDING, CHRIS KEETLE, PASSED AWAY THIS MORNING. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND ASK YOU ALL TO KEEP CHRIS AND HIS FAMILY IN YOUR PRAYERS AT THIS TIME AND PLEASE JOIN ME IN A MOMENT OF SILENCE. PRESIDENT FOLEY, SPEAKER HADLEY, CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, FAMILY, FELLOW NEBRASKANS, CONGRATULATIONS ON BEGINNING THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE. I AM HUMBLED AND HONORED TO SERVE AS YOUR 40TH GOVERNOR OF THE GREAT STATE OF NEBRASKA. WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE UNICAMERAL AND MY FELLOW CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. TODAY, AS IS WITH ALL INAUGURATION DAYS, IS A TIME OF NEW BEGINNING FOR THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. AND AS I LOOK FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE I'M OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE ROAD THAT LIES AHEAD. WE HAVE A GREAT STATE FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITY. IT'S ALSO A TIME FOR TAKING STOCK. WE JUST TURNED THE CALENDAR TO 2015. IN A LITTLE OVER TWO YEARS WE WILL CELEBRATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR STATEHOOD. OUR RICH HISTORY IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN FREEDOM, OPPORTUNITY, LIBERTY, AND THE HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. A FEW YEARS BEFORE STATEHOOD IN 1862, THE HOMESTEAD ACT WAS SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN WHO ALSO, BY THE WAY, MADE NEBRASKA THE CROSSROADS OF A GREAT TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD. THE FIRST HOMESTEADERS WERE CITIZENS, IMMIGRANTS, AND FREED SLAVES. THEY TRAVELED FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES

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TO NEBRASKA BY FOOT, WAGON TRAIN, OR RAILROAD SEARCHING FOR A BETTER LIFE. ONE OF THE FIRST HOMESTEADERS, DANIEL FREEMAN, WAS ONE OF THE PATRIOTS WHO WAS REWARDED WITH A SPECIAL INCENTIVE FOR SERVING IN THE UNION ARMY. HE CLAIMED LAND AT CUB CREEK NEAR BEATRICE. ANOTHER VETERAN, ROBERT BALL ANDERSON, WAS A FORMER SLAVE WHO EARNED HIS FREEDOM IN THE UNION ARMY AND IN 1870 BECAME THE FIRST FREED AFRICAN-AMERICAN HOMESTEADER. AS WE GATHER HERE TODAY IN LINCOLN, OUR CAPITAL CITY, NAMED FOR ONE OF OUR GREATEST AMERICAN PRESIDENTS WHO HELPED SHAPE THE DESTINY OF OUR GREAT STATE, WE CONTINUE TO WELCOME PEOPLE WHO VALUE FREEDOM AND WHO SEARCH FOR A BETTER LIFE. WE WELCOME PEOPLE FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD WHO COME TO STUDY AT OUR GREAT UNIVERSITIES OR WORK IN OUR BUSINESSES, RUN OUR FARMS OR OUR RANCHES. AND AS OUR FOREFATHERS DID A CENTURY AND A HALF AGO, WE CONTINUE TO HONOR THE VETERANS, THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SACRIFICE AND SERVE OUR COUNTRY. YES, WE HAVE A GREAT STATE, A BEAUTIFUL STATE FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITY FROM THE MISSOURI RIVER TO THE SANDHILLS TO THE PINE RIDGE. NEBRASKA IS WHAT AMERICA IS SUPPOSED TO BE. AND THE STRENGTH OF OUR STATE LIES WITHIN OUR PEOPLE. NEBRASKANS ARE ENGAGED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, THEIR SCHOOLS, THEIR CHURCHES. AND WHEN WE HAVE PROBLEMS, WE FIND A WAY TO WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE THOSE COMMON PROBLEMS DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES. OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS HERE IN THE STATE WILL DEPEND UPON OUR ABILITY TO PULL TOGETHER TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AND GROW NEBRASKA. I'M EXCITED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK IN A COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT TO MOVE THIS GREAT STATE FORWARD, TO BUILD THOSE FUTURES OUR NEBRASKA FAMILIES WANT AND DESERVE. WE NEED TO WORK TOWARD FOUR GOALS. THE FIRST, WE MUST STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY AND CREATE JOBS. THESE TWO PRIORITIES GO HAND IN HAND. WE MUST CREATE MORE AND BETTER PAYING JOBS FOR OUR KIDS AND OUR GRANDKIDS, ATTRACT KIDS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE MUST PUT IN PLACE THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGROWTH POLICIES THAT WILL FOSTER INVESTMENT BY BUSINESSES AND PRODUCTIVITY ON OUR FARMS AND RANCHES. HOWEVER, THERE'S A BARRIER FOR CREATING JOBS HERE IN OUR STATE, AND IT'S NEBRASKA'S HIGH TAXES. WE MUST CUT TAXES. WHETHER YOU'RE A HOMEOWNER, A FARMER OR RANCHER OR BUSINESS OWNER, EVERYONE BEARS THE BURDEN OF HIGH TAXES. NEBRASKANS FROM ALLIANCE TO SYRACUSE HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR STRONG INTEREST IN A PATHWAY TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, AND THAT WILL BE MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IN THIS SESSION. AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST ACT RESPONSIBLY. IT IS OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO BALANCE THE BUDGET WHILE FUNDING THE PRIORITIES THAT THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA CARE ABOUT MOST. NEXT, WE MUST REDUCE REGULATION. WHETHER YOU'RE THE LIVESTOCK

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PRODUCER IN BRIDGEPORT OR THE MANUFACTURER IN DESHLER, NEBRASKA, BUSINESSES FACE ONEROUS OVERREGULATION. AS GOVERNOR, I WILL STAND UP TO THE EGREGIOUS OVERREGULATION THAT WE GET FORCED ON US FROM WASHINGTON. AT THE STATE LEVEL, I WILL WORK TO ENSURE THAT OUR REGULATORY PROCESS IS FAIR, TRANSPARENT, AND MORE EFFICIENT. IN ADDITION, WE MUST STRENGTHEN EDUCATION. WE MUST ENSURE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO COMPETE IN A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY GLOBAL ECONOMY. AND IN PARTICULAR, I WANT TO FOCUS ON CAREER AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING. EVERY MANUFACTURER I HAVE SPOKEN WITH HAS TOLD ME THEY CANNOT FIND ENOUGH SKILLED LABOR, AND IT'S A BARRIER FOR THEM EXPANDING HERE IN THE STATE. AND THESE ARE WONDERFUL CAREERS. IN THE COMING WEEKS, I WILL CONTINUE TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS SO THAT WE CAN GROW NEBRASKA. AS WE WORK TOGETHER, YOU WILL HAVE OTHER IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN ACHIEVE THESE GOALS. YOU MAY HEAR OTHER CONCERNS FROM YOUR CONSTITUENTS. I PROMISE I WILL LISTEN CLOSELY AND WITH AN OPEN MIND. THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA EXPECT GOVERNMENT TO WORK. THEY HOLD US TO HIGH STANDARDS. I WILL WORK EACH AND EVERY DAY TO MEET THOSE STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC TRUST. AND TO NEBRASKANS EVERYWHERE, I ENCOURAGE YOU, STAY INVOLVED, STAY ENGAGED. YOU ARE THE SECOND HOUSE. HOLD US ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE RESULTS WE ACHIEVE AND HELP US GROW THE STATE. IN THE WORDS OF VIRGINIA SMITH, THE ONLY WOMAN TO EVER SERVE NEBRASKA IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THERE IS NO EXCELLENCE WITHOUT GREAT LABOR. ON BEHALF OF MY WIFE, SUSANNE, AND OUR ENTIRE FAMILY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND GOD BLESS THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT STATE.

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, GOVERNOR. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE FOR THE GOVERNOR PLEASE COME TO THE FRONT OF THE LEGISLATURE, PLEASE ESCORT THE GOVERNOR. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE FOR THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PLEASE ESCORT THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE FOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT PLEASE ESCORT THE CHIEF JUSTICE. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE PLEASE ESCORT HIM. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE TREASURER PLEASE ESCORT HIM FROM THE CHAMBER. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE AUDITOR PLEASE ESCORT THE STATE AUDITOR FROM THE CHAMBER. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL PLEASE ESCORT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL PLEASE

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

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ESCORT HIM FROM THE...WE DID THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. SORRY. HOW ABOUT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION? WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLEASE ESCORT THE STATE BOARD. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE FOR THE BOARD OF REGENTS PLEASE ESCORT THE BOARD OF REGENTS. MR. CLERK, DO YOU HAVE MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE NEITHER MESSAGES, REPORTS, NOR ANNOUNCEMENTS. I DO HAVE A PRIORITY MOTION. SENATOR COOK WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN THE BODY UNTIL FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 9, AT 10:00 A.M.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. WE ARE ADJOURNED.