

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

Floor Debate
April 20, 2016

[LB190 LB235 LB400A LB400 LB465A LB465 LB467A LB467 LB505 LB505A LB580
LB605 LB623 LB683 LB716 LB721 LB722A LB722 LB745 LB746 LB746A LB754A LB754
LB756 LB774 LB774A LB803 LB821 LB824 LB829 LB830 LB851A LB851 LB867 LB867A
LB884 LB886A LB886 LB889A LB889 LB901 LB919 LB919A LB930 LB934 LB934A
LB935 LB938 LB938A LB947 LB958 LB959A LB959 LB960 LB960A LB962 LB977A
LB977 LB994 LB1022 LB1033 LB1038 LB1038A LB1067A LB1067 LB1094 LB1105A
LB1105 LB1106 LR381 LR415 LR455 LR620 LR621 LR622 LR623 LR624 LR625 LR626
LR627]

PRESIDENT FOLEY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT FOLEY: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE SIXTIETH DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS SENATOR CAMPBELL. PLEASE RISE.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CAMPBELL. I CALL TO ORDER THE SIXTIETH DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

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

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. ARE THERE ANY CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL?

CLERK: I HAVE NO CORRECTIONS.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SIR. ARE THERE ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: I DO, MR. PRESIDENT. I HAVE SEVERAL. THE FIRST (READ RE LB935.)
[LB935]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: PARDON ME, MR. CLERK. PARDON ME. MEMBERS, PLEASE COME TO ORDER. MR. CLERK.

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CLERK: (READ RE LB935.) SECOND COMMUNICATION. (READ RE LB947.) A THIRD COMMUNICATION. (READ RE LB400, LB400A, LB465, LB465A, LB467, LB467A, LB505, LB505A, LB683, LB722, LB722A, LB745, LB746, LB746A, LB754, LB754A, LB774, LB774A, LB803, LB830, LB867, LB886, LB886A, LB889, LB889A, LB919, LB919A, LB934, LB934A, LB938, LB977, LB977A, LB1022, LB1033, LB1038, LB1038A, LB1105, AND LB1105A.) (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1629-1632.) [LB935 LB947 LB400 LB400A LB465 LB465A LB467 LB467A LB505 LB505A LB683 LB722 LB722A LB745 LB746 LB746A LB754 LB754A LB774 LB774A LB803 LB830 LB867 LB886 LB886A LB889 LB889A LB919 LB919A LB934 LB934A LB938 LB977 LB977A LB1022 LB1033 LB1038 LB1038A LB1105 LB1105A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: MR. CLERK.

CLERK: A SECOND COMMUNICATION OF THE CLERK. (READ RE LB959 AND LB959A.) A THIRD COMMUNICATION TO THE CLERK. (READ RE LB960 AND LB960A). AN ADDITIONAL VETO MESSAGE. (READ RE LB580). MR. PRESIDENT, LINE-ITEM VETO MESSAGES. (READ RE LB867 AND LB867A). A SECOND LINE ITEM. (READ RE LB938 AND LB938A.) A THIRD LINE ITEM...I'M SORRY, MR. PRESIDENT, THIS IS A COMMUNICATION TO THE CLERK. (READ RE LB235, LB716, LB721, LB756, LB821, LB824, LB829, LB851, LB851A, LB884, LB930, LB958, LB1067, LB1094, AND LB1106.) AND A FINAL LINE-ITEM VETO. (READ RE LB1067 AND LB1067A.) MR. PRESIDENT, I ALSO HAVE A SERIES OF REPORTS RECEIVED. THEY'LL BE AVAILABLE ON THE LEGISLATIVE WEB SITE FOR MEMBER REVIEW. LOBBY REPORT AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW. AND FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, LR381 WAS PRESENTED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON APRIL 4. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1632-1637.) [LB959 LB959A LB960 LB960A LB580 LB867 LB867A LB938 LB938A LB235 LB716 LB721 LB756 LB821 LB824 LB829 LB851 LB851A LB884 LB930 LB958 LB1067 LB1094 LB1106 LB1067A LR381]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. MEMBERS, WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA. MR. CLERK.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR MELLO WOULD MOVE THAT LB947 BECOME LAW NOTWITHSTANDING THE OBJECTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR MOTION. [LB947]

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SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES, ON DAY 60 OF THE SESSION. THIS WILL BE OBVIOUSLY THE LAST TIME THAT I WILL BE ENGAGING IN FLOOR DEBATE IN REGARDS TO THE MOTION OVERRIDE ON LB947. AND UP TO THIS POINT FOR THE MOST PART I WANT TO THANK MANY OF YOU FOR THE CONVERSATIONS, THE DIALOGUE, THE QUESTIONS IN REGARDS TO WHAT LB947 DOES AND, TO ANSWER THE CRITICS, WHAT LB947 DOESN'T DO. OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, SINCE WE RECESSED ON DAY 59, IT'S BEEN UNFORTUNATE THAT THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC DEBATE ON THIS BILL HAS REACHED A NEW LOW. IT'S SOMETHING THAT I'VE TRIED, I THINK, IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS AS YOUR APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN, IS TO KEEP THE CIVILITY TO THE LEVEL THAT WE EXPECT, NOT JUST FOR US AS A BODY, BUT FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC, TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, TO BE ABLE TO SIFT THROUGH FACT FROM FICTION, AND TO BE ABLE TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION IN RESPECTS TO WHAT WE WANT TO SEE WHEN IT COMES TO PUBLIC POLICY ON BEHALF OF THE STATE. GOOD OR BAD, THERE ARE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO TAKE A DIFFERENT PATH ON THIS BILL OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, AS WELL AS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. AND I CAN SAY I'VE HAD A VERY GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNOR RICKETTS THE LAST TWO YEARS. I THINK WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED AN AWFUL LOT TOGETHER AND I THINK WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT REGARDLESS OF OUR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS, REGARDLESS OF OUR POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, BECAUSE WE'RE ABLE TO WORK ON WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS THE MAIN ISSUE TOGETHER. WE WERE ABLE TO SEE AHEAD OF US OF WHERE WE WANTED TO GO. AND ALL I CAN SAY, COLLEAGUES, IS I'M UTTERLY DISAPPOINTED, UTTERLY DISAPPOINTED IN THE GOVERNOR IN REGARDS TO THE TACK HE'S TAKEN ON THIS BILL, THE MISINFORMATION, THE DEMAGOGUERY, THE HYPERBOLE, THE POLITICAL RHETORIC, COLLEAGUES, THAT WE HAVE CONDEMNED COLLEAGUES ON THE FLOOR OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS FOR USING SIMILAR RHETORIC, THINGS THAT ARE SO OUT OF BOUNDS FROM WHAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC EXPECTS OF US WHEN WE DEBATE A BILL, WHEN WE MAKE A CASE, WHEN WE TRY TO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO CONSIDER ANOTHER VIEWPOINT. I WAS VERY CLEAR IN EVERY ROUND OF DEBATE, EVERY QUESTION THAT'S BEEN ASKED OF ME ON THIS FLOOR, OF WHAT THIS BILL DOES. TO ALLUDE SOMEHOW, LIKE GOVERNOR RICKETTS HAS, AND I KNOW OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BODY HAVE DONE IT AS WELL, THAT SOMEHOW LB947 IS THE EQUIVALENT OF A FEDERAL AMNESTY BILL, COLLEAGUES, IS SHOCKING. IT'S SHOCKING. AND WE AS A LEGISLATURE SHOULD NOT ALLOW PEOPLE TO MAKE THOSE KIND OF ARGUMENTS. WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW PEOPLE TO MAKE "FICTIONOUS" COMMENTS, THINGS THAT ARE SO OUT OF BOUNDS IN REGARDS TO WHAT WE KNOW IS THE FACTS, WHAT THE TRUTH IS,

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PURELY TO TRY TO SCARE THE PUBLIC, BECAUSE SCARING THE PUBLIC, COLLEAGUES, WINS ELECTIONS. YOU GET PEOPLE TOGETHER, YOU POINT TO SOMEONE ELSE AND SAY, THEY'RE YOUR PROBLEM, THEY'RE YOUR PROBLEM, THERE IS WHAT'S CAUSING YOUR LOT IN LIFE TO BE DIFFERENT. YOU SEEK OUT THE OTHERS TO MAKE AN ARGUMENT. AND I'M JUST...IT'S SAD. THE BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE IT IS IT'S SAD. TO LEAVE THE LEGISLATURE WITH A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS GOVERNOR AND TO SEE WHAT HE HAS CHOSEN TO DO ON A BILL THAT NO MORE, COLLEAGUES, THAN FOUR WEEKS AGO HIM AND HIS STAFF WERE TALKING TO ME, TALKING TO THE OMAHA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, TALKING TO THE NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN, TALKING TO NEBRASKA APPLESEED, MAKING THE ARGUMENT TO ME TO SHELVE THIS BILL BECAUSE THEY'RE ALREADY GIVING OUT THESE PROFESSIONAL LICENSES ADMINISTRATIVELY, TRYING TO CONVINC ME TO KILL THIS BILL BECAUSE WE DON'T NEED IT, THEY'RE ALREADY DOING IT. AND IF YOU REMEMBER ON GENERAL FILE I SAID WE WERE HAVING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THIS BILL THAT WAS CONCERNING AND I WAS GOING TO HOLD OFF TO SEE IF WE COULD GET OUR HANDS WRAPPED AROUND THE ARGUMENTS BEING MADE AGAINST IT BY THE GOVERNOR. LB947, COLLEAGUES, IS A VERY SIMPLE BILL THAT IS NOT NEW TERRITORY THAT OTHER STATES HAVE ALREADY PLOWED FOR US. NEW YORK, FLORIDA, TEXAS, NEVADA, CALIFORNIA, WISCONSIN, ALL HAVE SOME FORM OR ANOTHER OF A LAW OR AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER THAT GIVES PROFESSIONAL LICENSES SPECIFICALLY TO DACA YOUTH. THIS BILL OBVIOUSLY BASES IT OFF THE FEDERAL REAL ID ACT THAT ALLOWS ANYONE WHO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEEMS, THROUGH A VERY RIGOROUS BIOMETRIC SCREENING PROCESS, THAT IF THEY MEET A CATEGORY UNDER THE FEDERAL LAW, THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO GET A WORK AUTHORIZATION PERMIT. COLLEAGUES, THAT IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE NOT HEARD THE GOVERNOR OR HIS ALLIES DISCUSS. THEY REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VERY SIMPLE FACTS THAT, TO QUALIFY FOR LB947, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS TO GIVE YOU APPROVAL FIRST. THEY HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE LAWFUL PRESENCE. THEY HAVE TO GIVE YOU THE ABILITY TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES LAWFULLY. THOSE ARE FACTS THAT YOU CAN'T JUST MAKE UP. THOSE ARE THINGS THAT YOU CAN'T JUST GET ON TALK RADIO, COLLEAGUES, AND SAY DOESN'T EXIST, BECAUSE THAT'S THE LAW. THAT IS WHAT THE CURRENT LAW IS. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE SEEING ACROSS THE COUNTRY. I SENT A LETTER IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNOR'S VETO THAT WE SENT TO YOUR OFFICES, AND WE'RE HOPEFULLY GETTING IT SENT OUT AGAIN TO THE PAGES, THAT HOPEFULLY ANSWERS SOME OF THE MISCONCEPTIONS WE'VE HEARD REGARDING THIS BILL. AND THE REASON I DID THAT WAS BECAUSE NORMALLY I WOULD SIMPLY LET THE RAIN FALL ON OUR HEADS, TRY TO DROWN OUT THE

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NOISE, LET IT JUST FALL ASIDE, LET US HAVE OUR DEBATE, LET US HAVE OUR DISCUSSION. BUT IN THIS CONVERSATION, COLLEAGUES, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE. WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT LICENSES TO KIDS OR...WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO CONTRIBUTE. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT KIND OF ECONOMY WE WANT. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT WHAT KIND OF COMMUNITIES WE WANT TO GO BACK TO TOMORROW. AND WHEN CANDIDATES OR ELECTED OFFICIALS OR PUBLIC OFFICIALS TAKE THE EASY WAY, TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT OF A CONVERSATION AND JUST START TO DEMAGOGUE PEOPLE, TRY TO PIT US AGAINST EACH OTHER AS THE OTHERS, THAT THEY DON'T DESERVE WHAT WE HAVE, THAT, COLLEAGUES, TAKES US TO A LEVEL THAT I DID NOT ENTER PUBLIC SERVICE FOR, AND I HOPE YOU DIDN'T EITHER, BECAUSE WE'VE DONE A LOT OF GOOD THINGS THIS YEAR. AND I THINK WE'VE DONE A LOT OF GREAT THINGS IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS. BUT WE WILL BE REMEMBERED FROM THE CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE TODAY. WE WILL BE REMEMBERED BY THE TENOR AND THE TONE OF WHAT WE'VE SEEN ON LB947. WE WILL BE REMEMBERED, COLLEAGUES, OF WHETHER OR NOT WE HAVE ALLOWED THE PUBLIC DEBATE IN THIS STATE TO HIT A NEW LOW, TO USE FICTION INSTEAD OF FACT AND TO STALL THE OPPORTUNITIES, THE GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL OF RESIDENTS OF OUR STATE. WE WILL BE REMEMBERED WHAT WE DO TODAY. MY HOPE IS THAT...33 OF YOU VOTED FOR THIS BILL A WEEK AGO. YOU VOTED FOR IT FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS. AND PROBABLY THE BEST REASON THAT NO ONE HAS REFUTED, PARTICULARLY THE GOVERNOR OR HIS ALLIES, IS, ASIDE FROM THE HUMAN IMPACT, IT'S PURELY THE ECONOMIC IMPACT. THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN, THEY DIDN'T JUST LINE UP AND SUPPORT THIS BILL AS HARD AS THEY HAVE BECAUSE THEY FEEL IT WAS JUST THE RIGHT THING TO DO. COLLEAGUES, THEY MADE A VERY, VERY STRONG ARGUMENT IN THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. WE HAVE COLLEGE GRADUATES GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, CREIGHTON, COLLEGE OF ST. MARY IN A WEEK FROM NOW WHO WANT TO GO BE AN ACCOUNTANT, WHO WANTS TO GO BE AN ENGINEER, WHAT WANTS TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL TO BE A NURSE AND STAY IN NEBRASKA. THAT WAS THEIR ARGUMENT AND THAT'S THE ARGUMENT WE'VE BEEN MAKING. BUT, YES, THERE IS A HUMAN ELEMENT AND A HUMAN SIDE TO THIS. THERE ARE FUTURES THAT ARE UNTAPPED WITH THIS BILL. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR MELLO: AND THOSE FUTURES, COLLEAGUES, ARE EXPECTING US TO LOOK PAST THE RHETORIC, TO LOOK PAST THE DEMAGOGUERY, TO LOOK PAST

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THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY THAT WE KNOW HAS TAKEN PLACE OVER THE LAST FOUR DAYS, BECAUSE WE RUN FOR OFFICE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE DON'T RUN FOR OFFICE TO GET REELECTED. WE DON'T RUN FOR OFFICE TO THINK ABOUT THE NEXT ELECTION. WE RUN FOR OFFICE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITIES, TO STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY, AND TO GIVE PEOPLE A BETTER SHOT AT THE AMERICAN DREAM. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING IN LB947. THAT'S WHAT 33 OF YOU VOTED FOR ON THURSDAY TO MOVE FORWARD. AND MY HOPE IS YOU'LL CONTINUE TO STAY WITH YOUR VOTE AND OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO ON LB947. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. (DOCTOR OF THE DAY INTRODUCED.) WE HAVE A VERY LONG LIST OF SENATORS IN THE QUEUE. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. EXCUSE ME. THE RULE OF LAW, STARTING WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF OUR COUNTRY, FOLLOWED BY OUR NEBRASKA STATE CONSTITUTION, FROM THERE, WE GO TO THE FEDERAL AND STATE STATUTES, AND FINALLY WE LOOK AT THE FINDINGS OF OUR COURT SYSTEMS. WHY DO CITIZENS OF FOREIGN LANDS SEEK TO BREAK OUR IMMIGRATION LAWS IN ORDER TO BRING THEIR FAMILIES TO OUR COUNTRY? I BELIEVE WE ALL KNOW THE ANSWER. IT IS THE PURSUIT OF FREEDOM. LET ME REPHRASE THAT: IT IS THE PURSUIT OF PROTECTED FREEDOM. WHAT PROTECTS THAT FREEDOM? WHAT ALLOWS AN INDIVIDUAL TO KNOW HE WILL BE PAID WHAT HE IS PROMISED FROM AN EMPLOYER? WHAT ALLOWS AN INDIVIDUAL TO FEEL RELATIVELY SAFE THAT HIS NEIGHBOR WILL NOT FRINGE ON HIS FREEDOM? THROUGHOUT HISTORY, IN SOCIETIES WHERE CITIZENS' FREEDOMS HINGE ON THE WHIM OF A GOVERNMENT EDICT, "DICTORIAL" PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE ACTIONS, FOR EXAMPLE. THOSE SOCIETIES HAVE AND WILL EVENTUALLY COLLAPSE. WHAT IS THE GLUE THAT HOLDS THAT FABRIC OF FREEDOM TOGETHER? THE RULE OF LAW. THE RULE OF LAW. WITHOUT THE RULE OF LAW SOCIETIES DETERIORATE. HAVE YOU STUDIED HISTORY, SELFISH BEHAVIOR BY ITS CITIZENS? I FEEL, I FEEL. MISINTERPRETATION OF RELIGIOUS TENETS: TREAT THE FOREIGNERS WELL, DOESN'T SAY TREAT THE FOREIGNER AS A CITIZEN, DOES NOT SAY TREAT THE FOREIGNER, TURN HIM INTO A CITIZEN. TREAT THE FOREIGNER WELL. I DO. HAVE YOU OPENED UP YOUR BASEMENT, YOUR GUEST ROOM TO A FOREIGNER, TO AN ILLEGAL ALIEN? OR DO YOU SIT IN YOUR ROOMS, IN THE EDITORIAL ROOMS, AS YOU SIT AND DECIDE EDITORIAL POLICY? DO YOU SIT IN YOUR NICE NEIGHBORHOOD, NO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS NEAR? HAVE WE BECOME THAT? STUDY HISTORY. ARE WE THERE? THE RULE OF

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LAW. NICARAGUA, ECUADOR, EARTHQUAKES, JAPAN, SHOULD WE SEND THE STATE'S PLANE DOWN THERE AND BRING THE ACCOUNTANTS AND THE DOCTORS BACK? WHERE DO YOU STOP? WHERE DO YOU START? WHERE YOU START IS LEGAL IMMIGRATION, A FEDERAL POLICY, NOT A STATE POLICY. THAT IS WHERE YOU START. THAT IS WHERE YOU FINISH. DO YOU KNOW SOMEBODY PERSONALLY THAT'S A DACA CHILD? I KNOW SOMEBODY PERSONALLY THAT GOT SENT BACK TO SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE HE WAS AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT. DO WE FOLLOW THE RULE OF LAW OR ARE WE IMMATURE AS A SOCIETY? DO WE NEVER MATURE AS INDIVIDUALS? DO WE PUT THE STATE FIRST? WE'RE NOT ELECTED BY FOREIGNERS, WE ARE ELECTED BY CITIZENS. SEVENTY PERCENT OF NEBRASKANS BELIEVE IN THE RULE OF LAW WHEN IT COMES TO IMMIGRATION LAW. HOW MANY...DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED WHEN HE ANNOUNCED DACA, HOW MANY PEOPLE PUT THEIR KIDS ON TRAINS, ON TOP OF TRAINS, SNUCK...HIRED COYOTES TO BRING THEIR KIDS ACROSS BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT NOW THEIR KIDS WOULD BECOME CITIZENS? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO NEBRASKA? WILL THEY FLOCK HERE? LIFE ISN'T FAIR. BUT THE LIFEBOAT CALLED AMERICA, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP IT AFLOAT, TO HAVE A MEASURED IMMIGRATION POLICY. THE SELFISH REASONS OF ECONOMIC FOR OUR STATES THAT THESE PEOPLE COULD HELP US,... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR GROENE: ...THE FAKE RELIGION OF THE FLESH THAT WE JUDGE SOMEBODY'S WORTH OR THEIR SALVATION BY--IF THEY HAVE THREE MEALS A DAY AND THEY HAVE AIR CONDITIONING AND A CELL PHONE--THAT IS WHERE WE ARE IN THIS COUNTRY. THE GOVERNOR IS RIGHT. THE ATTACK BY SENATOR MELLO ON THE GOVERNOR WAS UNWARRANTED. I READ HIS STUFF. TALK ABOUT CIVILITY AND THEN GO ON THE ATTACK? I WILL STAND UP FOR THE GOVERNOR BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THE RULE OF LAW. YOU FEEL GOOD? YOU WANT TO HELP SOMEBODY? MOVE THEM INTO YOUR BASEMENT, BUT DON'T FORCE YOUR NEIGHBOR THROUGH GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. UPHOLD THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. DO THE RIGHT THING. ACT MATURE. REPRESENT THE PEOPLE. AMEN. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR BURKE HARR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. "RULE OF LAW" IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE OVERUSED TODAY. RULE OF LAW IS VERY

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IMPORTANT. IT IS THE BASIS OF OUR SOCIETY, BUT IT IS NOT OUR COMPLETE SOCIETY. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A SET OF RULES TO FOLLOW. I GET THAT. I DEDICATED MY LIFE TO THAT. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE AND IN MY PRIVATE SECTOR JOB I PRACTICE LAW. I UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF LAW AND WHAT IT PROVIDES. BUT IT IS NOT THE COMPLETE ANSWER, AND WE CAN'T LET OURSELVES BE HAMSTRUNG BY THE RULE OF LAW. WE HAVE A SITUATION NOT OF OUR MAKING. WE HAVE A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT REFUSES TO ACT. GO ON YOUR GOOGLE MACHINE. LOOK, YOU CAN FIND QUOTES FROM RONALD REAGAN, HARRY TRUMAN, TEDDY ROOSEVELT, ABRAHAM LINCOLN ON IMMIGRATION, ALL GREAT PRESIDENTS. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THEY TRIED TO WORK WITH CONGRESS AND CONGRESS TRIED TO WORK WITH THEM TO FIND A SOLUTION, TO FIND A WAY TO ADDRESS OUR PROBLEMS WITH IMMIGRATION. THAT'S NOT OCCURRING RIGHT NOW AND, AS A RESULT, WE HAVE A SITUATION WHERE WE HAVE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TRAPPED, BROUGHT HERE NOT NECESSARILY BY CHOICE, BUT WHO, ONCE THEY CAME, WANT TO REMAIN. AND THERE IS A COST--SENATOR GROENE IS CORRECT--ON OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ON OUR PUBLIC ROADS, ADMINISTRATION, ON OUR GOVERNMENT, FOR THESE YOUNG PEOPLE TO COME HERE. AND WHILE I MAY NOT HOUSE THEM IN MY BASEMENT, AS SENATOR GROENE WOULD ASK THAT I DO, I DO SUPPORT THEM. AND I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT, AS WE PROVIDE THIS EDUCATION FOR THEM WHICH IS THE BEDROCK OF OUR SOCIETY, THAT WE ALLOW THEM TO CONTINUE TO GROW AND NOT BE THIS LIABILITY THAT HE SPEAKS OF. AND THAT'S WHAT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DOING. THEY ARE GOING OUT, THEY'RE GETTING AN EDUCATION, AND THEY WANT TO GO FROM BEING A TAX LIABILITY TO BEING A TAX ASSET, MEANING THEY WANT TO GO OUT AND GET GOOD-PAYING JOBS. THEY WANT TO BECOME A FULL HUMAN BEING. THEY DON'T WANT TO BE STRADDLED BY THIS SYSTEM THAT PUTS AN ARTIFICIAL LID THAT SAYS YOU CAN HAVE THIS JOB, YOU CAN'T HAVE THIS JOB. THESE PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED TO BE HERE, MAKE NO MISTAKE. THEY ARE NOW UNDER...WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, THEY ARE ALLOWED TO BE HERE. AND SO THE QUESTION IS, WHY DO WE WANT TO HINDER WHAT THEY CAN AND CAN'T DO? WE WANT TO SEE INDIVIDUALS SUCCEED TO THEIR GREATEST. MAYBE THAT'S ME. I TAKE THE VIEW OF, YOU KNOW, GIVE ME YOUR TIRED AND WEAK AND WE'LL MAKE THEM STRONG. THAT'S THE...THAT IS WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO IS TO MAKE THESE INDIVIDUALS. THERE'S A REASON THEIR PARENTS MADE A SACRIFICE AND LEFT THEIR HOME COUNTRY AND EVERYTHING THEY HAD TO COME TO AMERICA. IT'S BECAUSE WE ARE A BETTER LIFE, AND THAT'S A GREAT THING, AND WE NEED TO CELEBRATE THAT. AND WE NEED TELL THESE INDIVIDUALS, YOU COME HERE AGAINST YOUR WILL AS A CHILD, WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU AS LONG AS IT'S LEGAL. IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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CHANGES, GUESS WHAT, SO DOES THIS BILL. IF ALL OF A SUDDEN DACA IS NOT ALLOWED TO EXIST ANYMORE, THEY CAN'T HAVE A LICENSE. IF WE, BY A STROKE OF LIGHTENING OR LUCK, ACTUALLY HAVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ON A FEDERAL LEVEL... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU...THIS LAW WILL CHANGE. WE HAVE INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE CAUGHT IN A BAD SITUATION RIGHT NOW, AND WE CAN'T FIX THAT PROBLEM. WE HAVE TO LOOK TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO FIX THAT. BUT UNTIL WE CAN, WE HAVE TO SHOW THESE INDIVIDUALS COMPASSION. AND WE WILL FOLLOW THE RULE OF LAW, THE RULE OF LAW THAT WE WRITE THAT SAYS, IF YOU ARE HERE AND YOU FOLLOW CERTAIN PROCEDURES, RULE OF LAW, WE WILL ALLOW YOU TO GET A LICENSE, RULE OF LAW. WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR ANYTHING EXTRAORDINARY. WE WRITE THE LAWS. WE ARE THE POLICYMAKERS. LET'S DO THAT TODAY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BURKE HARR. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND, COLLEAGUES, I URGE YOU TO OVERRIDE THE VETO OF LB947. I'M NOT GOING TO REPEAT THE EXCELLENT COMMENTS MADE BY SENATOR MELLO ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS BILL IN TERMS OF OUR FUTURE AND WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT NEBRASKA IN TERMS OF...NOR AM I GOING TO REPEAT THE WONDERFUL COMMENTS MADE BY SENATOR HARR ABOUT THE RULE OF LAW. SENATOR MELLO POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING THE RIGOR OF THE FEDERAL SCREENING. AS A MEMBER OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, I WANT TO REINFORCE THE ADDITIONAL SCREENING THAT HAPPENS FOR MANY OF OUR PROFESSIONAL LICENSES. ONE OF THE AREAS OF JURISDICTION FOR THE COMMITTEE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ARE MANY OF OUR PROFESSIONAL LICENSES. AND I WILL TELL YOU, AS WE LOOK AT THOSE STATUTES, AS WE SEE THOSE BILLS, TO GET THESE PROFESSIONAL LICENSES REQUIRES YEARS OF EDUCATION. IT REQUIRES TESTING. IN SOME CASES IT REQUIRES MONTHS OR YEARS OF EXPERIENCE ON THE JOB BEFORE YOU GET THESE PROFESSIONAL LICENSES. SO IN ADDITION TO ALL THE FEDERAL SCREENING THAT SENATOR MELLO HAS LAID OUT ON THE FLOOR AND IN THE LETTER, ON TOP OF THAT, ALL OF OUR STATUTES FOR THESE PROFESSIONAL

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LICENSURES LAY OUT ADDITIONAL SCREENINGS, ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS. SO SOMEONE WHO IS HERE AND HAS FOLLOWED ALL THE REQUIREMENTS TO MEET A PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE HAS COMPLETED ADDITIONAL TASKS. THEY HAVE COMPLETED EDUCATION. THEY HAVE COMPLETED TESTING. THEY HAVE COMPLETED EXPERIENCE UNDER A MENTOR. AND THOSE, ALL OF THOSE REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET AS WELL. WE ARE NOT JUST GOING TO GIVE A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE TO SOMEONE BECAUSE OF THEIR FEDERAL STATUS. WE ARE GOING TO GIVE A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE TO SOMEONE BECAUSE THEY HAVE MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS IN OUR STATE TO MEET THAT, TO HAVE THAT PROFESSION AND PRACTICE THAT PROFESSION IN OUR STATE, AND THEY HAVE FEDERAL AUTHORIZATIONS TO WORK IN OUR STATE. COLLEAGUES, I ALSO WANT TO NOTE THAT, DESPITE THE PARTISAN RHETORIC ON THIS BILL, THAT MANY OF OUR CONSTITUENTS UNDERSTAND AND THEY UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION. AS I WAS AWAY ON RECESS, I HAD MANY PEOPLE COME UP TO ME AND URGE ME TO OVERRIDE THIS VETO. AND, COLLEAGUES, WHEN I HAD MY STAFF LOOK THROUGH THE COMMUNICATION THAT WE'VE GOTTEN ON THIS BILL, EVEN IN MY DISTRICT, WHICH IS A FAIRLY CONSERVATIVE DISTRICT, THE PEOPLE CONTACTING ME TO ENCOURAGE ME TO SUPPORT THE OVERRIDE WERE FIVE TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE WHO CONTACT ME TO ASK ME TO SUSTAIN THE OVERRIDE. SO OUR CONSTITUENTS GET IT. IT'S CRITICAL FOR OUR STATE AND IT'S CRITICAL FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND JUSTICE IN OUR STATE, AND I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE VETO OVERRIDE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) CONTINUING WITH DEBATE, SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR HANSEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I RISE TODAY IN SUPPORT OF LB947. AND I WILL BE VOTING TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO SO THAT THIS BILL CAN BECOME LAW. THIS IS MY PERSONAL PRIORITY FOR THE YEAR. I DESIGNATED THAT SUCH BECAUSE I WAS LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO DRASTICALLY IMPACT THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS. I HAD OTHER BILLS THAT I HAD CONSIDERED AND WERE LOOKING AT. BUT WHEN SENATOR MELLO CAME UP AND APPROACHED ME ABOUT THIS BILL AND I REALIZED THE DRASTIC IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF LIVES IT COULD HAVE, IT INSTANTLY CAUGHT MY ATTENTION. I DID SOME DUE DILIGENCE, I LOOKED AROUND, TALKED TO SENATOR MELLO AT LENGTH. I BELIEVE AT THAT TIME HE DESCRIBED IT AS THE BEST HEARING HE'S EVER HAD IN HIS TERM IN THE LEGISLATURE. I TALKED WITH MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE THAT HAD HEARD THE BILL AND HAD EXECED ON IT, I BELIEVE, ABOUT THE TIME I PRIORITIZED IT. AND ONE OF THEM DESCRIBED IT AS THE BEST JUDICIARY HEARING HE'D EVER HEARD IN

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HIS TENURE. SO THAT WAS THE BASIS I WAS GOING OFF OF. NATURALLY, HAVING SERVED IN THE LEGISLATURE LAST YEAR AND SEEING WHAT WE HAD DONE WITH LB623, I DOUBTED THIS WOULD SAIL THROUGH COMPLETELY AT EASE, BUT I WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT WAS COULD DRASTICALLY IMPACT THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES NEBRASKANS. WE CAN MAKE SPEECHES ON CITIZENSHIP AND THE RULE OF LAW, BUT FUNDAMENTALLY I WANT YOU TO COME UP WITH A DEFINITION OF NEBRASKAN THAT DOES NOT APPLY TO THE PEOPLE THIS BILL WOULD IMPACT. AND SO THAT'S WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION. YOU KNOW, THERE'S BEEN SEVERAL THINGS SAID, BOTH IN THE PAST FEW ROUNDS OF THE DEBATE, IN MEDIA, AND I'M SURE IT WILL BE SAID LATER TODAY, AND I WANTED TO ADDRESS THE NOTION THAT WE ARE SOMEHOW, BY PASSING THIS, INFRINGING ON OTHER NEBRASKANS OR INFRINGING ON THE TAXPAYERS OF NEBRASKA. AND THAT'S SOMETHING I'M STRUGGLING TO CONCEPTUALIZE. IF WE ARE ALLOWING SOMEBODY TO BECOME A PHARMACY TECHNICIAN, HOW DOES THAT IMPACT ME? HOW DOES THAT INFRINGE MY RIGHTS BECAUSE THERE IS AN EXTRA PHARMACY TECHNICIAN IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA? IF WE'RE ALLOWING SOMEBODY TO BECOME AN ASBESTOS...AN OFFICIAL ASBESTOS REMOVER? HOW DOES THAT HARM ME? HOW DOES THAT HARM MY NEIGHBOR? HOW DOES THAT THERE'S ONE MORE PERSON CERTIFIED AND LICENSED TO PROVIDE A SERVICE THAT WE MAY NEED, HOW DOES THAT IMPACT ME? THROUGHOUT THE PAST TWO YEARS, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT IT'S INTERESTING THERE'S BEEN PEOPLE WHO STAND UP AND TALK ABOUT TAXPAYERS. AND THEY PRIORITIZE IN SOME DEBATES, THEY PRIORITIZE THEIR TALKS ON TAXPAYERS RATHER THAN CITIZENS AND ALMOST AS IF THEIR WORLD VIEW IS FOCUSED ON THAT. WELL, COLLEAGUES, I CHALLENGE YOU, THESE INDIVIDUALS, WHO ARE LIVING IN NEBRASKA, WHO ARE WORKING IN NEBRASKA, WHO ARE PAYING OUR SALES TAX, WHO ARE PAYING OUR GAS TAX, AND ON AND ON AND ON, WOULD THEY NOT QUALIFY AS TAXPAYERS? ARE THESE NOT SOME OF THE INDIVIDUALS YOU WISH TO FIGHT FOR ON OTHER DEBATES? I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE PROBABLY HAVE THEIR MINDS DECIDED UPON TODAY COMING INTO THIS, SO I'M NOT SURE AT WHAT LENGTH ANY OF MY COMMENTS WILL INSPIRE ANYONE. BUT I WANTED TO PUT THAT ON THE RECORD AS TO WHY I SUPPORT THIS BILL AND WHY I PRIORITIZED IT. ULTIMATELY I THINK THIS IS GREAT LEGISLATION THAT WILL DRASTICALLY IMPACT A LOT OF YOUNG NEBRASKANS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947 LB623]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HANSEN. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.)
CONTINUING WITH DEBATE, SENATOR SEILER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

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SENATOR SEILER: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. MEMBERS OF THE UNICAMERAL, ALL OF YOU HAVE GOTTEN MY LETTER, AND SO I'M NOT GOING TO GO BACK INTO THAT. YOU CAN...I BELIEVE YOU CAN ALL READ AND UNDERSTAND WHAT I WROTE. BUT WHAT I DO WANT TO TAKE YOU BACK TO IS THE TIME OF FEBRUARY 11, 2016, AT OUR HEARING. WE HAD A NUMBER OF YOUNG STUDENTS TESTIFYING BEFORE US. THE FACT IS, AS MY LETTER EXPLAINED IT, THAT THEY HAVE TO BE VETTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN QUALIFY AS A DACA STUDENT. I'M WONDERING HOW MANY ON THIS FLOOR COULD QUALIFY UNDER THE DACA REPORT. SOME OF MY STAFF HAVE ACTUALLY FILLED THOSE OUT. THEY'RE ABOUT AN INCH AND A HALF THICK AND THEY COVER EVERY YEAR THAT CHILD HAS BEEN IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. IT'S NOT JUST A RUBBER STAMP--YEAH, YOU'RE HERE AND I'M GOING TO RUBBER-STAMP YOU INTO THIS COUNTRY--NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL. THAT'S A RULE OF LAW. AND WHEN WE...I'VE PRACTICED LAW FOR 50 YEARS AND I HEAR PEOPLE SAY, OH, IT'S A RULE OF LAW. PEOPLE FORGET ONE OF THE THINGS ABOUT THE RULE OF LAW IS WHAT WE DO HERE TODAY, NOT TOMORROW, NOT NEXT WEEK. DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN SIX MONTHS FROM NOW. TALK ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY BECAUSE WE ARE CREATING PART OF THE RULE OF LAW. BUT I WANT TO TAKE YOU BACK TO THAT HEARING. NOW ONE THING YOU NEED KNOW ABOUT THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, IT TAKES AN ACT OF GOD TO GET AN 8-0 VETTING. AND IF YOU DON'T THINK SO, GO CHECK THE RECORD. WE DON'T COME OUT 8-0 OUT OF MY COMMITTEE. SO THIS ONE CAME OUT 8-0. LET'S TALK ABOUT WHO APPEARED BEFORE US, BECAUSE THAT'S NOT IN THE RECORD AND NOBODY WANTS TO TALK ABOUT THAT. LET'S TALK ABOUT THE TEACHER WHO CARRIES A 4.7 AVERAGE ON A 4.0, BECAUSE OF THE HONORS CREDITS SHE GOT, AND WANTS TO TEACH IN NEBRASKA. OH, WE'LL JUST KICK HER OUT AND MAKE HER GO TO IOWA. THESE KIDS THAT TESTIFIED ALL WANTED TO LIVE IN OMAHA. MAYBE WE BUILT THE KERREY BRIDGE FOR ONE REASON: SO THE GOOD STUDENTS OF NEBRASKA CAN WALK ACROSS THE BRIDGE TO IOWA TO PRACTICE. THAT MAY BE A LITTLE CYNICAL, BUT THAT'S A FACT! AND WE NEED TO CHANGE THAT. HOW ABOUT THE NURSE THAT GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE OF ST. MARY'S NURSING SCHOOL WITH 3.99 GRADE POINT AVERAGE? I CHALLENGE EVERYBODY ON THIS FLOOR, DID YOU GRADUATE WITH A 3.99 GRADE POINT AVERAGE? AND BE TRUTHFUL ABOUT IT. I DOUBT IT. WHAT ABOUT WHAT THE YOUNG MAN WHO GRADUATED FROM NEBRASKA, RIGHT DOWN THE STREET HERE, IN ACCOUNTING? HE GOT HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE, THEN HE WENT AND GOT A MASTER'S DEGREE, AND NOW WANTS TO SIT FOR THE CPA TEST AND WE WON'T LET HIM. WE WON'T LET HIM. A MASTER'S DEGREE, AND HE CAN'T SIT FOR THE CPA EXAM BECAUSE OF A, QUOTE, RULE OF LAW. THAT'S

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BOGUS. THAT'S BOGUS. SO WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS PASS LB947 AND LET THESE GOOD STUDENTS PRACTICE HERE. THE FACT WE'RE RUNNING ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR SEILER: ...AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES ASKING PEOPLE TO COME HERE AND PRACTICE THEIR PROFESSIONS AND WE KICK THEM OUT AND TELL THEM THEY GOT TO GO TO IOWA, COUNCIL BLUFFS, COUNCIL BLUFFS OUGHT TO BE DOWN HERE OPPOSING THIS BILL 100 PERCENT BECAUSE THEY'RE THE BENEFICIARIES OF OUR STUPIDITY. THANK YOU. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SEILER. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I WILL SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S MOTION TO OVERRIDE, AND THERE ARE MANY REASONS AND MANY LEVELS TO DO SO. IT'S INTERESTING TO HEAR ATTORNEYS ARGUE OVER THE RULE OF LAW. I'M NOT AN ATTORNEY, BUT I BELIEVE SOME IMPORTANT POINTS WERE MADE. THE POINTS ARE, AND I WANTED TO TOUCH BASE, THAT ARE WE GOING TO CONDONE LAWLESSNESS OR ARE WE GOING TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW? THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE. AND MANY OF YOU REMEMBER THAT WHEN WE STOOD AND HELD UP OUR RIGHT HAND AND WE SWORE TO UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION, THIS IS A PART OF THAT. THIS IS A PART OF OUR PROMISE. AND THE WHOLE IDEA BEHIND THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CENTRAL IDEA IS THAT LAWS ARE NEVER MADE BY ONE PERSON AND NOT EVEN ONE BRANCH. THE PUBLIC POLICY DETAILS RELATED TO IMMIGRATION, SUCH AS THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS, WHERE TO PLACE INDIVIDUALS, NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES, THOSE DETAILS, THAT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT DELIBERATIVELY IN A BODY, AND THAT IS CONGRESS, AND THAT'S WHERE IT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE. NO PRESIDENT CAN SIMPLY PROCLAIM THAT THERE IS A CONSENSUS ON AN ISSUE OR A DEADLOCK ON AN ISSUE AND THEN PROCEED TO TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. NEITHER OF THOSE TWO INSTANCES CONSTITUTE AUTHORITIES FOR THE PRESIDENT TO ACT. THAT IS A PROBLEM. EVEN THIS WEEK MANY OF YOU MAY HAVE READ OR HEARD ABOUT THE SUPREME COURT THAT APPEARED CLOSELY DIVIDED ALONG IDEOLOGICAL LINES DURING THEIR ORAL ARGUMENTS ON MONDAY TRYING TO DETERMINE HOW TO MOVE FORWARD ON THIS. AND HERE WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO MOVE

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FORWARD ON A VERY CRITICAL ISSUE TO IMMIGRATION. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE MEANING OF THE CONSTITUTION IS SET AND CANNOT BE CHANGED EXCEPT BY THE PROCESS ALLOWED FOR IN THE DOCUMENT ITSELF. IT WAS THE ONLY LAW PASSED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE CHOSE TO DIVIDE THAT POWER AND IT SHOULD BE PRESERVED AND PROTECTED. IF THE CONSTITUTION IS NOT HELD IN DEFERENCE BY THOSE WHO SWORE ON OATH TO UPHOLD IT, THEN THE RULE OF LAW IS BEING MADE A SIMPLE MOCKERY. FRIENDS, THERE ARE 123 LEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN NEBRASKA AS OF THE YEAR 2013. I AM THE DAUGHTER OF TWO LEGAL IMMIGRANTS. FOR THEM COMING TO AMERICA WAS LIKE WALKING ON HOLY GROUND BECAUSE THEY CAME HERE BY THE LIGHT OF DAY, THEY FOLLOWED THE RULES, THEY MADE MANY SACRIFICES TO GET HERE. THEY DID NOT COME HERE BY THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT OR AGAINST OUR LAWS. OUR LAWS ARE IMPORTANT MOVING FORWARD AS A COUNTRY, AS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THERE'S AN ESTIMATED--AND WE CAN'T EVEN CONFIRM--55,000 UNAUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS IN OUR STATE, UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR BRASCH: IMMIGRATION IS SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO CONSIDER AT ALL POINTS AND AT ALL TIMES. WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING HERE IS THAT WE ARE PLACING INTO LAW THAT ONLY CALIFORNIA EMULATES. FLORIDA ONLY ALLOWS LAW LICENSES. NEW YORK AND ILLINOIS ONLY ISSUED LAW LICENSES, NEVADA ONLY TEACHING CERTIFICATES, AND OUR SURROUNDING STATES DO NOT SUPPORT THIS. IF YOU SAY THEY DO, PLEASE TELL ME THE SECTION AND THE LAW, THE STATUTE, BECAUSE WE CANNOT SEE THAT ANYWHERE IN ALL OF OUR RESEARCH. SO PLEASE SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR IN HIS MOTION TO OVERRIDE. I SUPPORT IT AS AN IMMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) CONTINUING WITH DEBATE, SENATOR KEN HAAR. [LB947]

SENATOR HAAR: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS AN IMMIGRANT FROM RUSSIA, GERMAN FROM RUSSIA. SO I THINK ALL OF US, IF WE GO BACK JUST A STEP OR TWO, HAVE TO SAY WE WERE IMMIGRANTS. I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND PEOPLE THAT EVERY YEAR THAT I'VE BEEN IN THE LEGISLATURE WE'VE TALKED ABOUT KEEPING OUR BEST AND OUR BRIGHTEST HERE IN NEBRASKA. HOW DO WE KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEBRASKA? AND MY GOODNESS, SOMEBODY WITH A 3.99 AVERAGE, A

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PROFESSIONAL PERSON, AND WE'RE GOING TO SAY YOU CAN'T GET A LICENSE. MY AVERAGE WAS ONLY 3.8 AT UNL, I BELIEVE, (LAUGHTER) IN CHEMISTRY, SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE I FAILED. BUT MY GOODNESS, ARE WE GOING TO TAKE THESE PEOPLE...AND I'M SORRY. I'VE TALKED TO A LOT OF PEOPLE AND I CAN'T TELL ONE OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO IS BROUGHT TO THIS COUNTRY ILLEGALLY, I GUESS, AND GONE THROUGH OUR SCHOOLS. AND THEY'RE AMERICANS, FOR GOD'S SAKES, AND THEY WANT TO AND THEY SHOULD BE A PART OF OUR ECONOMY. IN NEBRASKA WE HAVE A PROBLEM BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PROFESSIONALS. WE DON'T KEEP ENOUGH PROFESSIONALS. WE HAVE SUCH A LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, IF WE SEND EVERYBODY BACK TO WHEREVER, WE'D BE IN BIG TROUBLE. AND THAT'S CERTAINLY WHY WE'VE GOTTEN SUPPORT FROM BUSINESSES. SO IT'S NOT...IT'S ABOUT OPPORTUNITY. IT'S ABOUT OPPORTUNITY FOR NEBRASKA, KEEPING SOME OF THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE IN THIS STATE BECAUSE WE NEED THEM. IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO HEAR ANY OTHER DISCUSSION IN ANY OTHER YEAR, AND I WON'T BE HERE TO HEAR IT BUT OTHERS WILL, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEBRASKA IF WE TURN...IF WE DON'T OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NEBRASKA TO KEEP THESE YOUNG PEOPLE HERE. THEY WILL ADD TO THE STATE. THEY ARE NEBRASKANS AND IT'S ONLY RIGHT. I'D LIKE TO GIVE THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR MELLO. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KEN HAAR. SENATOR MELLO, 2:30. [LB947]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AND I APPRECIATE A COUPLE QUESTIONS I'VE HAD THIS MORNING TO TRY TO ALLEVIATE WHAT, ONCE AGAIN, IS SOME OF THE FEAR TACTICS THAT HAVE BEEN USED ON THIS BILL. AND SENATOR KINTNER NO DOUBT GAVE YOU SOME OF THE AMMUNITION THAT'S BEEN USED OVER THE WEEKEND TO TRY TO SCARE PEOPLE THAT THERE ARE ALL THESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE GOING TO GET THESE LICENSES, END QUOTE. WELL, COLLEAGUES, I SAID THIS ON SELECT FILE AND I SENT A LETTER OUT EXPLAINING THE, QUOTE UNQUOTE, DAPA PROGRAM IS NOT IN EXISTENCE. IT'S BEEN SUSPENDED BY THE FEDERAL COURTS, WHICH MEANS THERE'S NO ONE UTILIZING THAT PROGRAM, THERE'S NO ONE ELIGIBLE TO GET LICENSES UNDER THAT PROGRAM. AND IF THE SUPREME COURT, WHICH HAS BEEN DIVIDED ON A 4-4 VOTE ON MOST ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE, COME TO A 4-4 VOTE, THE PROGRAM IS FOUND NOT TO BE CONSTITUTIONAL. AND IF THE SUPREME COURT, THE HIGHEST COURT OF THE LAND, DOES DETERMINE IT TO BECOME CONSTITUTIONAL, THAT'S SHOWING THE

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A DECISION ON THEIR OWN THAT WE CAN'T INFLUENCE, COLLEAGUES. WE CANNOT CHANGE WHAT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT OR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CHOOSES TO DO ON THAT ISSUE. BUT I WANT TO BE VERY CLEAR: THERE'S NO ONE UNDER A DAPA PROGRAM GETTING THESE LICENSES. AND SENATOR KINTNER MAY BE WALKING AROUND, SHOWING YOU NUMBERS. OBVIOUSLY THE SOURCE OF THE NUMBERS IS DEBATABLE AT BEST. BUT THE POINT IS... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR MELLO: ...THEY DON'T QUALIFY UNDER ANY EXISTING PROGRAM. SO BEFORE ANYONE GETS ON THE FLOOR AND STARTS MAKING THIS ARGUMENT THAT WE'RE GOING TO ALLOW ALL THESE OTHER PEOPLE IN TO GET THESE LICENSES, COLLEAGUES, THE FEDERAL LAW IS VERY CLEAR, THE SUPREME COURT IS VERY CLEAR. THEY'VE DECIDED TO SUSPEND THE CREATION OF THAT PROGRAM WHICH NO ONE CAN UTILIZE. AND THE SUPREME COURT HAS THE FINAL DECISION, COLLEAGUES, RIGHT NOW WHETHER OR NOT DEFERRED ACTION IS LEGAL IN REGARD TO THE EXPANSION THAT WAS PROPOSED OR IT'S NOT LEGAL. IF IT'S NOT LEGAL, THE PROGRAM DOESN'T EXIST. IF IT IS LEGAL, THAT'S A DECISION THEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE, NOT THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE. SO LET'S BE CRYSTAL CLEAR OF WHAT WE CAN DO, COLLEAGUES, AND WHAT WE CANNOT DO. WE CANNOT CHANGE WHAT THE SUPREME COURT DECIDES OR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECIDES. WHAT WE CAN DO IS DO WHAT WE'VE DONE BEFORE WHICH IS, ANYONE WHO QUALIFIES UNDER THE REAL ID ACT OF 2005, THAT WE CAN PROVIDE THEM PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL LICENSES, WHICH IS WHAT WE'RE DOING IN LB947. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR KINTNER: WELL, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU KNOW, THEY TEACH IN POLITICAL SCHOOLS THAT RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL, MOVING FORCES IN POLITICS; AND I GOT TO TELL YOU, SENATOR MELLO IS AT HIS BEST WHEN HE IS BEING INDIGNANT. AND I THOUGHT THAT WAS SOME OF THE BEST POLITICAL THEATER I'VE SEEN IN A LONG TIME WHEN HE WENT UP TO THAT MIKE THE FIRST TIME, RAILING AWAY ON SIDE ISSUES THAT DON'T EVEN ADDRESS EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE. BUT I'VE HEARD AN AWFUL LOT. I HEARD SENATOR HAAR, MY GOOD FRIEND

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SENATOR HAAR--WE SIT ACROSS FROM EACH OTHER IN APPROPRIATIONS--SAY THAT HIS GRANDPARENTS WERE IMMIGRANTS. WELL, HOW NICE. EVERY ONE OF US IS AN IMMIGRANT. THE QUESTION IS, DID THEY COME LEGALLY OR ILLEGALLY? THEY'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO BLUR THOSE LINES BETWEEN LEGAL AND ILLEGAL. AND THEY DON'T SEEM, THESE PEOPLE THAT WANT TO LOOSEN THESE LAWS UP, DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LEGAL AND ILLEGAL. IF YOU LOOK AT...SOMEONE SAID PEOPLE MADE A SACRIFICE TO GET HERE. WELL, I THINK WHEN A GUY ROBS A BANK HE PROBABLY MAKES A BIG SACRIFICE TO ROB THE BANK, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE SHOULD BE REWARDED FOR DOING THAT. NOT EVERY SACRIFICE IS LEGAL AND GOOD. NOW WE GOT TO REMEMBER ONLY CONGRESS CAN MAKE LAWS. WE SEEM TO FORGET WHO MADE THIS. THIS IS NOT AN EXECUTIVE ORDER FROM THE PRESIDENT. THIS WAS A MEMO FROM JANET NAPOLITANO, WHO IS NO LONGER AT HOMELAND SECURITY. AND THEN THOSE REGULATIONS WERE MADE NOT EVEN BY THE PRESIDENT'S OWN PEN, THEY WERE MADE BY A CABINET OFFICIAL THAT'S NOT EVEN THERE, AND WE'RE FORCED TO REACT TO IT. CONGRESS DIDN'T STEP IN AND DO WHAT THEY SHOULD HAVE DONE AND NOW HERE WE ARE TRYING TO REACT TO IT. IF YOU LOOK AT WHAT I HANDED OUT, AND THIS TOOK A LONG TIME TO FLUSH THIS OUT OF THE PEOPLE PUSHING THIS BILL, THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO GIVE SOME ADDITIONAL STATUS IN OUR STATE TO NOT ONLY 4,000 DACA PEOPLE, AND IT'S BEEN SOLD. WE HAD TWO EDITORIALS WRITTEN BY THE EDITORIAL BOARDS OF THE TWO MAJOR PAPERS SAYING HELP THE KIDS. WELL, WE'RE ONLY TALKING ABOUT 4,000 KIDS AND 14,000 OF THEIR PARENTS, WHO ARE THE ONES THAT ACTUALLY CAME HERE, BROKE THE LAW, AND NOW WE'VE GOT THESE YOUTH IN A VERY TOUGH SITUATION. THEY'RE STUCK BETWEEN A BAD FEDERAL...WELL, IT'S NOT EVEN A STATUTE, I GUESS IT'S A BAD FEDERAL MEMO THAT'S ACTING AS, MASQUERADING AS LAW, AND OUR STATE LAW THAT SAYS WE WON'T GIVE BENEFITS TO ILLEGAL ALIENS. THEY'RE STUCK IN THAT NO-MAN'S LAND. NOW I WOULD SUGGEST, IF THE PEOPLE THAT REALLY WANT TO HELP THESE YOUTH, AND I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE IN HERE THAT'S NOT SYMPATHETIC, IF YOU WANT TO REALLY HELP THEM, COME BACK NEXT YEAR WITH A NARROWLY TAILORED BILL THAT ONLY ADDRESSES THEM. YOU KNOW, SENATOR MELLO SAID, WELL, THE SUPREME COURT HAS RULED ON THIS. NO, THEY HAVEN'T RULED ON THIS. IT WAS THE FIFTH CIRCUIT THAT RULED, AND HE IS DEPENDING ON THEM TO UPHOLD THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, WHICH HE DOESN'T EVEN AGREE WITH, TO MAKE HIS BILL WORK AND NOT GIVE 14,000, OR POTENTIALLY 14,000 PEOPLE, PROFESSIONAL LICENSES. THAT'S THE BAD WAY TO DO A BILL, DEPENDING ON THE SUPREME COURT TO KNOCK PART OF IT OUT SO IT'S NOT SO BAD. WHY DON'T YOU JUST WRITE THE BILL RIGHT THE FIRST TIME? WHY DON'T

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YOU COME BACK NEXT YEAR AND WRITE A NARROW BILL THAT ONLY APPLIES TO DACA? NOW WE HAD SOMEBODY SAY, YOU KNOW, PARTISANSHIP, PARTISANSHIP, PARTISANSHIP. WHENEVER I TRY TO GET THE CONSERVATIVES... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR KINTNER: ...TO ACTUALLY--THANK YOU--ACTUALLY ACT CONSERVATIVE, IT'S PARTISANSHIP. WELL, GUESS WHAT? ALL 12 DEMOCRATS LOVE THIS BILL, THEY SUPPORT THIS BILL. HALF OF THEM HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN. AREN'T THEY BEING PARTISAN? REPUBLICANS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE ON THIS BILL. WHY IS IT ONLY WHEN WE TRY TO GET THE CONSERVATIVES TO ACT CONSERVATIVE IT'S PARTISAN? THAT'S A BUNCH OF HOOEY. SO I WOULD ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE OF THIS CHAMBER TO UPHOLD THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. AND IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP DACA, COME BACK NEXT YEAR, THE DACA KIDS, YOUTH, COME BACK NEXT YEAR. LET'S DO A BILL THAT HELPS THEM AND THEM ONLY. BY THE WAY, WE'LL HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT. THIS WILL BE A LOT CLEARER AFTER JANUARY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER. SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE AS I GUESS A MEMBER OF THE RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION CLUB IN THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE. IT IS CORRECT. LINES ARE BEING BLURRED LEGALLY ABOUT LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN THESE DISCUSSIONS. SENATOR KINTNER JUST SAID THAT THE DEMOCRATS LOVE THIS BILL AND THAT THE REPUBLICANS, I GUESS, THEREBY DON'T. BUT THIS IS CLEARLY A BIPARTISAN ISSUE. THIS STANCE TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR IS BIPARTISAN. THE LINCOLN, THE OMAHA, THE STATE CHAMBERS, THE NSEA, ALL SUPPORT THIS, THE NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN. THIS IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST BIPARTISAN ISSUES. AND, YES, I HAVE RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION ABOUT THE FACT OF HOW SOME PEOPLE WANT TO TREAT THOSE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE BEEN EDUCATED BY OUR STATE. THIS IS A WORK FORCE ISSUE. THIS IS A MORALITY ISSUE. WE HAVE UNEMPLOYMENT AT 3 PERCENT. THE STATE CHAMBER IN THEIR LETTER TO THE LEGISLATURE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE 50,000 OPENINGS ON THE NEworks WEB SITE. WE NEED TO CREATE A BETTER WORK FORCE. WE NEED TO EMPOWER QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO WANT TO WORK IN OUR STATE. THAT EMPOWERS

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US, IT EMPOWERS OUR STATE. TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO WILL HELP ADDRESS OUR STATE'S NEED FOR HEALTHCARE OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES. IT WILL HELP MEET SOME OF THE BILINGUAL NEEDS ACROSS OUR STATE. IT WILL ADDRESS SOME OF OUR STATE'S URGENT NEEDS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS. OVERRIDING THIS VETO WILL MAKE FULL USE OF THE SKILLS AND TALENTS OF PEOPLE THAT ARE WORK-AUTHORIZED. AGAIN, SENATOR GROENE TALKED ABOUT THE RULE OF LAW AND THAT WE SEEK TO BREAK OUR LAWS. THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BROKEN NO LAWS. THEY CAME HERE WITH THEIR PARENTS WHEN THEY WERE UNDER 16. SO WE ARE ATTEMPTING, OR THERE IS AN ATTEMPT, TO PUNISH THEM FOR THE ACTS OF THEIR PARENTS. WHICH OF YOU HAD CONTROL OVER YOUR LIVES WHEN YOU WERE UNDER 16 AND COULD TELL YOUR PARENTS, NO, WE'RE NOT GOING TO MOVE, WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING? PUNISHING A CHILD FOR THE ACTS OF THEIR PARENTS IS ALSO IN THE BIBLE. THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GREAT ASSETS TO OUR STATE. WE ARE SPENDING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO ATTRACT PEOPLE TO OUR STATE, TO ATTRACT NEW BUSINESSES, TO ATTRACT EMPLOYEES TO WORK AND MAKE OUR ECONOMY VIBRANT. WE HAD 27 PROPONENTS WHO CAME AND SPOKE TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WHEN IT WAS VOTED 8-0 OUT OF COMMITTEE. SENATOR SEILER SPOKE OF SOME THE MOST COMPELLING STORIES. AND I WOULD JUST ADD THAT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SOME OF THE FABULOUS PEOPLE IN OUR GALLERIES AND ACROSS OUR STATE. I HOPE THAT YOU CAN LOOK IN EACH OF THEIR EYES IF YOU VOTE AGAINST THIS AND SAY, NO, YOU ARE NOT WORTHY. I HOPE YOU CAN SAY TO OUR STATE AND TO THE BUSINESSES IN OUR STATE, NO, WE DON'T NEED THESE EMPLOYEES, THESE WHO ARE THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST IN OUR STATE, IN OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. I ADORE THE YOUNG PEOPLE THAT I HAVE MET THROUGH THIS BILL AND THIS WORK. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THEY WILL BE AN ASSET TO ANY BUSINESS, TO ANY COMPANY, AND TO ANY INDUSTRY IN OUR STATE. WE ARE TALKING HERE ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF OUR ECONOMY, AND WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF OUR MORAL FIBER. SO, PLEASE, COLLEAGUES, VOTE TO OVERRIDE THIS GUBERNATORIAL VETO. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR PANSING BROOKS. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) CONTINUING WITH DEBATE, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I BRING TO THIS DISCUSSION THIS CARDINAL POINT. I AM ONE OF TWO PEOPLE ON THIS FLOOR WHOSE ANCESTORS WERE THE ONLY ONES BROUGHT HERE AGAINST THEIR WILL AS FORCED IMMIGRANTS AND WERE MISTREATED DURING THE ENTIRE TIME WE'RE HERE. I CANNOT OVERLOOK THAT. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REACH ME IN A WAY THAT NOBODY AND NOTHING ELSE CAN DO. PARAPHRASING ABRAHAM LINCOLN: PEOPLE WILL LITTLE NOTE, NOR LONG REMEMBER, WHAT WE SAY HERE, BUT THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT WE DO HERE. AND I HOPE WE DO THAT WHICH IS JUST, DECENT, HUMANE, PROPER, AND IN ACCORD WITH BASIC FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN DECENCY AND HUMAN DIGNITY. THE BIBLE, WHICH IS SO OFTEN REFERRED TO ON THIS FLOOR, INCLUDING BY ME, MENTIONS THE FATHERS EATING SOUR GRAPES AND THE CHILDREN'S TEETH BEING SET ON EDGE. AS BLACK PEOPLE, WHEN WE HAVE DEMANDED REPARATIONS FOR THE UNREQUITED LABOR THAT OUR ANCESTORS GAVE TO BUILD THIS COUNTRY, THE LOSS OF OUR FREEDOM, OUR DIGNITY, OUR PERSONHOOD, WE ARE MET WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT THAT WAS THEN, THEY WERE THE SLAVE HOLDERS, WE ARE NOT SLAVE HOLDERS. BUT NOW YOU'RE SAYING THAT THESE CHILDREN ARE TO BE PUNISHED FOR SOMETHING THEIR PARENTS DID. YOUR MORALITY IS ELASTIC. IF IT'S APPROPRIATE TO PUNISH THESE CHILDREN FOR SOMETHING THEY DIDN'T DO, BUT WHICH THEIR PARENTS DID, THAT YOU DON'T LIKE, THEN WHERE ARE OUR REPARATIONS FOR WHAT YOUR ANCESTORS DID TO US? YOUR MORALITY IS NOT SINGLE. I WOULD HATE TO THINK THAT YOU WOULD DENY TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHAT FOR SO MANY GENERATIONS WERE DENIED TO CHILDREN SUCH AS MYSELF WHEN I WAS A CHILD: THE ABSENCE OF A ROLE MODEL, THE ABSENCE OF EXAMPLES. NOTHING INSPIRES THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN OPPRESSED SO MUCH AS AN EXAMPLE OF ONE OF THEIR OWN--AND I'LL USE THE WORD ADVISEDLY--ONE OF THEIR OWN KIND OVERCOMING ALL OF THE OBSTACLES, ALL OF THE SETBACKS, REACHING STANDARDS THAT ARE IMPOSED ON NOBODY ELSE, AND HAVING TO BE TWICE AS GOOD AS THE BEST OF THE OTHERS AND MANAGING TO DO IT SOMEHOW. WHEN YOU CAN SHOW THESE CHILDREN THAT ONE OF THEIR OWN COULD DO IT, THEN THEY HAVE THAT EXAMPLE WHICH THEY HAVE NO PLACE ELSE. WHEN THEY COME HERE, THEY LISTEN TO US TALK ABOUT HOW THEY ARE UNWORTHY, HOW THEIR PARENTS ARE UNWORTHY, THAT THE RULE OF LAW PREVAILS. BUT IF THEY READ THE NEWSPAPER, THEY'LL SEE THAT SENATOR GROENE, SENATOR BRASCH, AND ALL THE OTHERS WHO SUPPORTED KEEPING THE DEATH PENALTY NEVER ONCE SPOKE OF HOW THE GOVERNOR WAS VIOLATING THE FEDERAL LAW BY TRYING TO BRING ILLEGAL DRUGS INTO THIS COUNTRY. HIS ADMINISTRATION WAS TOLD REPEATEDLY BY THE FEDERAL

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GOVERNMENT THAT IT VIOLATES FEDERAL LAW TO BRING SODIUM THIOPENTAL INTO THIS COUNTRY. THAT MEANT NOTHING TO HIM EVEN THOUGH THAT WAS THE FEDERAL LAW, WHICH IS SUPREME IN THIS COUNTRY IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION. NOT ONLY DID HE DIRECT HIS UNDERLINGS TO ENGAGE IN THIS CONDUCT CONTRARY TO FEDERAL LAW,... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...BUT HE ACTUALLY EXPENDED 54,000 TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS, IN VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW, TO GET ILLEGAL DRUGS INTO THIS COUNTRY. AND HE WAS DEALING WITH A MAN WHO HAD BEEN DOCUMENTED AS A THIEF AND A LIAR. THEY CANNOT GET THAT MONEY BACK. AND TO EVEN SPEND IT, THEY CIRCUMVENTED THE STANDARD PURCHASING PROTOCOL OF THIS STATE. SO WHERE IS THE RULE OF LAW? HOW DOES IT LOOK FOR ONE WHO HAS SHOWN BY HIS CONDUCT THAT HE IS LAWLESS, WHEN HE HAS SWORN TO UPHOLD THE LAW, GOING TALK ABOUT LAWLESSNESS? I'LL END BY QUOTING WHAT YOU OFTEN HEAR IN THE BIBLE: PHYSICIAN, HEAL THYSELF. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. TO ME IT IS BEYOND BELIEF THAT WE WOULD NOT SUPPORT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE. WE SPEND HOURS IN THIS BODY, HOURS IN COMMITTEES, BILLS UPON BILLS UPON BILLS: HOW DO WE BUILD THE WORK FORCE IN NEBRASKA? HOW DO WE BRING PEOPLE HERE? HOW DO WE DEAL WITH OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT? WE NEED MORE PEOPLE, WE NEED MORE PEOPLE. WE HAVE THE PEOPLE HERE RIGHT NOW. AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, WE SPEND A GREAT AMOUNT OF TIME TALKING ABOUT WORK FORCE ALL ACROSS THIS STATE. AND ABSOLUTELY EVERY PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY THAT I CAN THINK OF IN HEALTHCARE WE NEED PEOPLE. WE HAVE SUPPORTED THESE YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES. WE'VE SUPPORTED THEM ON THE SOCCER TEAMS, IN THE MUSIC PROGRAMS, ON THE DEBATE TEAMS. WE BOUGHT UNIFORMS PROBABLY FOR THEM. THEY HAVE REPRESENTED OUR COMMUNITIES AND WE'VE CHEERED THEM ON. BUT THEY GET TO THIS POINT AND WE SAY, SORRY, WE CAN'T SUPPORT YOU ANYMORE. I'VE HAD SOME E-MAILS THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS THAT SAID PEOPLE WILL FLOCK TO NEBRASKA, ALL THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL FLOCK TO NEBRASKA IF WE DO THIS. I HEARD THIS

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ARGUMENT SEVEN YEARS AGO WHEN WE DEALT WITH THE PRENATAL ISSUE AND WE DID NOT SEE THAT HAPPEN. IT WAS MERELY A SCARE TACTIC. I HAD TO CHUCKLE. I AGREE WITH SENATOR KINTNER IN THE SENSE THAT ALL OF US HAVE IMMIGRANT FAMILIES. MY BROTHER, BILL, IS HERE TODAY. AND OUR FAMILY, I'M NOT SURE WE CAME HERE LEGALLY, BECAUSE OUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER CHANGED THE SPELLING OF HIS NAME. WE HAVE HAD A FABRIC OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, A HERITAGE THAT HAS BUILT THIS STATE. PLEASE DO NOT DENY THESE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE A PART OF THAT HERITAGE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CAMPBELL. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.)
SENATOR MORFELD. [LB947]

SENATOR MORFELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I RISE TODAY TO VOTE TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO ON LB947. AND IF SENATOR CAMPBELL'S FAMILY CAME HERE ILLEGALLY, THEN I'M SURE GLAD THAT THEY DID, BECAUSE SENATOR CAMPBELL AND OTHER SENATORS LIKE HER HAVE BEEN AN INCREDIBLE ASSET TO THIS STATE AND TO THIS BODY. I WANT TO ADDRESS A LITTLE BIT OF WHAT'S BEEN TALKED ABOUT WITH THE RULE OF LAW, PARTICULARLY SENATOR GROENE AND SENATOR BRASCH'S COMMENTS. FIRST, SENATOR GROENE STATES THAT SOCIETIES DETERIORATE WHEN THE RULE OF LAW DETERIORATES. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS THAT ALSO MAKE SOCIETIES DETERIORATE, SUCH AS INJUSTICE, DIVISION, AND DEMAGOGUERY, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT THIS VETO REPRESENTS. I WOULD LIKE TO ALSO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE RULE OF LAW AND HOW THIS DEFERRED ACTION PROGRAM HAS BEEN CREATED AND PROMULGATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH I WOULD REMIND THIS BODY WAS LAWFULLY ELECTED TO BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF OUR COUNTRY. IF YOU WANT TO CALL THIS LAWLESS, THEN YOU CAN'T DO SO WITH A STRAIGHT FACE. GO LOOK AT THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT, CHAPTER 208, SUBSECTION (b), SUBSECTION (2), THE TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS PROGRAM, IN SECTION 244, ALL CREATED BY CONGRESS. THE PRESIDENT DIDN'T JUST UNILATERALLY ACT. THE PRESIDENT CREATED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT WAS GIVEN TO HIM...OR, EXCUSE ME, THAT WAS CREATED AND PROMULGATED UNDER THE LAWFUL ACTS OF CONGRESS. SO WE CAN'T SIT HERE ON THE BODY AND IN THIS CHAMBER AND STATE THAT THIS IS SOME KIND OF LAWLESSNESS BECAUSE IT SIMPLY ISN'T TRUE. THIS DEFERRED ACTION PROGRAM HAS BEEN AROUND FOR 40 YEARS. THIS DEFERRED ACTION PROGRAM IS THE REASON WHY MANY OF MY CONSTITUENTS IN MY DISTRICT, WHICH IS A DISTRICT THAT HAS A LARGE IMMIGRATION POPULATION, WHICH IT'S THE

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REASON WHY MANY OF THEM ARE THERE TODAY FROM COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, FROM EUROPE, FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. THIS IS NOT SOME KIND OF NEW PROGRAM. IT'S BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME AND IT WAS PROPERLY CREATED BY CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT HAS PROPERLY EXERCISED HIS AUTHORITY GIVEN TO HIM BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY. ALSO, IMMIGRANTS PAY TAXES. THEY CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COMMUNITY. ANYTIME THEY GO AND BUY SOMETHING AT THE GROCERY STORE, THEY'RE PAYING TAXES. WHEN THEY PAY THEIR RENT, THEY'RE HELPING CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROPERTY TAX BASE. THIS IDEA AND THIS NOTION THAT IMMIGRANTS SOMEHOW COME HERE AND DON'T CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SOCIETY, WHETHER THEY'RE HERE LEGALLY OR ILLEGALLY, IS FALSE. IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE A FEDERAL LAW, RUN FOR CONGRESS, BUT DON'T PUNISH HARDWORKING YOUNG NEBRASKANS. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A STATEMENT, HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT DON'T PUNISH HARDWORKING YOUNG NEBRASKANS. AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE PRESIDENT, VOTE A DIFFERENT WAY THE NEXT TIME OR GET A BUNCH OF OTHER PEOPLE OUT TO VOTE WHO WILL VOTE THE SAME WAY YOU DO, BUT DON'T PUNISH HARDWORKING NEBRASKANS. AS A YOUNG NEBRASKAN, I WANT TO LIVE IN A STATE WHERE WE VALUE HARD WORK, WHERE WE REWARD THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DECIDE TO STAY HERE AND GROW OUR ECONOMY AND OUR TAX BASE AND EMBRACES WHO WE ARE AS A COUNTRY AND WANTS TO BE A PART OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AND UPHOLD OUR DEMOCRACY AND OUR IDEALS, NOT ONE THAT ALLOWS FOR DEMAGOGUERY AND DIVISION AND FALSE NOTIONS OF WHAT'S LAWFUL AND NOT LAWFUL FOR POLITICAL GAIN. AND THAT'S WHY I AM VOTING TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO AND I HOPE THAT YOU JOIN ME. THANK YOU. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MORFELD. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) CONTINUING DEBATE, SENATOR COOK, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I RISE IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THE MOTION TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO FOR LB947. I AM A PROUD COSPONSOR OF THIS LEGISLATION AND WOULD LIKE TO ADD MY VOICE TO THE CHORUS TO VOTE IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION TO OVERRIDE. THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT, FRIENDS, IS THAT THE DACA YOUTH, ABOUT WHICH BILL IS DRAFTED, ARE IN THIS COUNTRY LAWFULLY AND SHOULD BE OFFERED THE RECOGNITION THAT GOES ALONG WITH BEING IN THIS COUNTRY LAWFULLY. THEY'RE NOT HERE BECAUSE OF CHOICES OR DECISIONS THAT THEY MADE. THEY WERE PERHAPS A TODDLER, 6 YEARS OLD, OR 10 YEARS OLD, AND THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER THE WAY THEIR LIFE IS LIVED. WHEN MY PARENTS RECEIVED ORDERS TO

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REPORT TO OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, THEN THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND, I WAS 16 MONTHS OLD, 16 MONTHS OLD MOVING FROM THE TROPICS TO THE STATE OF NEBRASKA WHERE IT HAS BEEN 25 DEGREES BELOW ZERO, MOVING TO A STATE WHERE THEY IMAGINED THEMSELVES AS SOMETHING THAT DOES NOT LOOK LIKE ME AND DOESN'T 100 PERCENT REFLECT MY VALUES. I WAS A BRIGHT 16-MONTH-OLD. I COULD NOT DRIVE. I COULD NOT GET MY OWN PLACE ON GUAM. IF I HAD BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT, I MIGHT NOT BE STANDING HERE WITH YOU THIS MORNING TO SUFFER THROUGH SOME OF THE RIDICULOUS THINGS THAT SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES ARE SAYING THIS MORNING, BUT GOD HAS A PLAN FOR OUR LIVES. SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS ALSO TOUCHED ON SOMETHING THAT COMES UP REGULARLY. I CANNOT CONTROL WHAT YOUR THOUGHTS ARE AND I CAN'T CONTROL ALL OF THE DECADES AND DECADES OF REINFORCEMENT FOR THOSE THOUGHTS, BUT I WOULD ASK YOU, AT LEAST, NOT TO SAY OUT LOUD THAT EVERYBODY CAME TO THIS COUNTRY AS AN IMMIGRANT. THEY DID NOT. SENATOR KINTNER, I'M NOT CERTAIN WHAT THE INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAWS WERE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ABOUT KIDNAPPING, BUT MY SENSE IS THAT IT WAS ILLEGAL, PROBABLY ILLEGAL IN ENGLAND AND ILLEGAL IN WHAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. SO ONCE AGAIN, IF YOU KEEP SAYING IT, THAT'S FINE. YOU'RE IGNORANT. THAT IS NOT HOW THE UNITED STATES GOT STARTED. A BUNCH OF MY ANCESTORS WERE KIDNAPPED AND WORKED HERE FOR FREE, AND THAT'S HOW THIS COUNTRY GOT STARTED AS AN INTERNATIONAL POWER. SO THE PRETTY WORDS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES AND HOW IDEAL IT IS SIMPLY ARE NOT TRUE. I DON'T FEEL I HAVE 100 PERCENT AGENCY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF NATIVE AMERICAN AMERICANS, BUT THEY'RE ALSO A GROUP THAT DID NOT IMMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES. IF ANYONE IS AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT, IT MAY BE THE COLONISTS OR THE PIONEERS WHO CAME TO TAKE THEIR LAND. WITH THAT, I WOULD REINFORCE MY SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNOR'S OVERRIDE OF...IT'S NOT HIS MOTION, BECAUSE WE'RE THE ONES THAT MAKE THE MOTIONS AND MAKE THE LAWS...THE MOTION TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. I WOULD ECHO SOME PHONE CALLS AND E-MAIL MESSAGES I RECEIVED OVER THE WEEKEND, INCLUDING ONE FROM A FRIEND IN FLORENCE WHO IS A SELF-DESCRIBED CONSERVATIVE WHO LISTENS TO THAT DRIVEL ON TALK RADIO BUT DID NOT AGREE WITH IT. I WOULD ADD HIS VOICE, THE ADVOCATES, THE FAITH COMMUNITY, THE LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES,... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

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SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT...THE NEBRASKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE GREATER OMAHA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE LINCOLN CHAMBER, THE NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN, TO SUPPORT THIS MOTION TO OVERRIDE. I URGE ALL OF YOU WHO SAW THE WISDOM IN SUPPORTING THE BILL TO SEND IT TO THE GOVERNOR'S DESK WOULD STICK WITH THAT POINT OF VIEW AND VOTE YES TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. OH, THANK YOU... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) CONTINUING WITH DEBATE, SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. I'D JUST LIKE ONCE AGAIN TO BRING UP A VERY SPECIAL POINT IN THE DEBATE. ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF HAS BEEN ACTIVE WITH US OVER THE PAST PERIOD OF DEBATE, SO FOR THAT I THINK THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS LEARNING THE SYSTEM. ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE THEY'VE BEEN VERY CLEAR THAT WE ARE ALREADY EXTENDING CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE TO FOLKS IN THIS STATUS, YET WE ARE DENYING LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION TO SOME FOLKS IN THIS STATUS. FOLKS, THAT'S A PROBLEM. TO DO FOR SOME AND NOT FOR ALL, THAT'S NOT THE NEBRASKA WAY, IT'S NOT THE AMERICAN WAY AND, ACCORDING TO THE NEBRASKA CONSTITUTION, IT'S PROHIBITED. ARTICLE I, SECTION 3: NO PERSON SHALL BE DEPRIVED OF LIFE, LIBERTY, OR PROPERTY, WITHOUT THE DUE PROCESS OF LAW, NOR BE DENIED EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THOSE LAWS. NOW THE WORD "PERSON" HERE APPLIES TO MORE THAN JUST FLESH AND BLOOD. IT CAN ACTUALLY APPLY TO A CORPORATE STRUCTURE, TO AN ENTITY. BUT IT IS ILLEGAL FOR US AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL FOR US TO DENY THOSE RIGHTS TO ALL OF THE FOLKS IN A PARTICULAR CATEGORY, A CLASS. I'M NOT JUST READ MY CRIB NOTES OR SOME BLOG. I'M READING FROM THE NEBRASKA CONSTITUTION. I'M READING FROM OUR CONSTITUTION. WE CANNOT DENY SOME AND GIVE TO OTHERS; WE CANNOT DO IT. THIS DEBATE SHOULD HAVE ENDED LONG AGO. SO AS I HAVE STOOD ON THIS FLOOR MANY TIMES AND SAID, TO ME, IN TONY DUNGY'S WORDS, IT'S GOD, FAMILY, AND EVERYTHING ELSE. GOD TELLS ME TO DO THE RIGHT THING HERE. THE CONSTITUTION SUPPORTS DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR ALL PERSONS IN NEBRASKA. AND I CONSIDER THOSE FOLKS MY EXTENDED FAMILY, SO I WILL DO WHAT'S RIGHT. NOW SOME WILL SAY, SENATOR KRIST, YOU HAVE TWO YEARS LEFT AFTER THIS YEAR, YOUR TERM LIMITED, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE CONSTITUENTS NOT VOTING FOR YOU. ON A PERSONAL NOTE, FOLKS, I'M HERE TO SERVE MY CONSTITUENTS AND THE GREATER NEEDS OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND I

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HAVE NEVER VOTED THE WAY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WANTED ME TO VOTE: IN LOCKSTEP. I HAVE NEVER BEEN REPUBLICAN ENOUGH, CONSERVATIVE ENOUGH. SO IF YOU'RE LOOKING AT AN OUTSIDE MEASURE TO TELL YOU WHO YOU ARE, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE IN CONFLICT. I HAVE ARGUED WITH MANY OF YOU ON THIS FLOOR OVER ISSUES AND AT THE END OF THE DAY WE'VE AGREED TO SHARE A COKE AND A MEMORY AND MOVE ON AND START OVER A DIFFERENT DAY. THAT'S THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS. THAT'S THE WAY WE NEED TO TREAT THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE. THERE ARE 49 OF US AND THE PREPONDERANCE OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS CHAMBER VOTED THIS ISSUE WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO MOVE FORWARD. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND NOW WE NEED TO STICK TOGETHER AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT. THE RIGHT THING TO DO IS TO OVERRIDE THE VETO AND LET LB947 ACCEPT THOSE PEOPLE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA WHO WISH TO PAY TAXES, WISH TO WORK FOR THEIR FAMILY'S COMMON GOOD AND FOR THE GOOD OF NEBRASKA. PLEASE VOTE TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) THE DEBATE CONTINUES. SENATOR KUEHN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR KUEHN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. I RISE THIS MORNING AND ASK MY COLLEAGUES TO VOTE NO ON THE MOTION TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. I HAVE OPPOSED THE PASSAGE OF LB947 THROUGH EACH ROUND OF DEBATE AND HAVE SPOKEN ON IT AS WELL. AND I CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN MY OPPOSITION TO A NUMBER OF THE COMPONENTS OF LB947, NOT NECESSARILY THE OVERALL CONCEPT OF WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT OR ALLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO GAIN ACCESS TO WORK WITHIN OUR STATE. WE'RE PLACED AS STATE LAWMAKERS IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A DELIBERATE CHOICE NOT TO ACT ON IMMIGRATION POLICY. SO WHAT WE HAVE SEEN IS RATHER THAN A COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE REFORM, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH ULTIMATELY DETERMINES AND HAS A HISTORY OF DETERMINING AND CREATING REGULATIONS AT THE BORDER, WHICH REGULATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN GAIN ACCESS TO OUR WORK FORCE THROUGH VISAS, THROUGH CONTROLLED MECHANISMS, HAS CHOSEN NOT TO ACT. WE'RE LEFT WITH MILLIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED INDIVIDUALS WHO BYPASS THE

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LEGAL SYSTEM AND ENTERED INTO OUR COUNTRY, MANY OF THEM AS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WITH THE DACA YOUTH, THE SO-CALLED DREAMERS, WOULD NOT THROUGH A CHOICE OF THEIR OWN. AND NOW WE AS STATES ARE ATTEMPTING TO PUT TOGETHER A PATCHWORK OF REGULATIONS AND LAWS TO DEAL WITH A PROBLEM THAT ULTIMATELY WE CANNOT FIX. MUCH HAS BEEN MADE ON THIS FLOOR ABOUT THE SUPPORT FOR LB947 FROM THE NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN WHICH MANY THINK MAYBE IS A LITTLE BIT ODD THAT THE CATTLE INDUSTRY WOULD TAKE A POSITION ON PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL LICENSES. BUT IN THE CATTLE INDUSTRY, WE HAVE DEALT WITH AND CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH A BAD SET OF RULES AND UNTENABLE POSITIONS WITH A WORK FORCE THAT WE HAVE TRAINED TRYING TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF PRODUCING LIVESTOCK IN NEBRASKA, PROCESSING THAT LIVESTOCK, AND STILL OPERATE WITHIN A BROKEN FEDERAL SYSTEM. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE A COUPLE OF POINTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN MADE WHICH IS MY REASON FOR OPPOSITION ON LB947. I SYMPATHIZE WITH THE DREAMERS. I TRULY DO BECAUSE I HAVE WORKED WITH STUDENTS FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS WHO HAVE COME TO THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, SOUGHT HIGHER EDUCATION, MANY OF THEM SEEKING PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, HAD TO ABIDE BY A SET OF CAPRICIOUS AND VERY CHALLENGING AND DIFFICULT RULES, AND AT THE END OF THE DAY HAVE NO GUARANTEE OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE. THEY WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ECONOMY. THEY COME BECAUSE THEY WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM. THEY PAY AT A RATE MUCH HIGHER THAN THOSE WHO HAVE NOT GONE THROUGH THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND THEY GET NO GUARANTEE. AND WHEN YOU LOOK A STUDENT IN THE EYES WHO HAS SPENT THEIR TIME AND PAID THEIR TUITION AND FOLLOWED THE RULES AND TELL THEM, I'M SORRY YOU DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR A LOTTERY VISA, YOU HAVE TO GO BACK HOME, IT HURTS. IT HURTS TO HAVE WORKED WITH THEM, TO HAVE NURTURED THEM, TO HAVE TAUGHT THEM, TO HAVE ADVISED THEM. AND THEY STILL HAVE TO FOLLOW THE RULE OF LAW. LB947 DOESN'T CHANGE THAT FOR THEM. I HAVE FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE HAD TO LEAVE THEIR PRACTICES BECAUSE THEY HAD TO GO HOME AND REAPPLY FOR THEIR VISA AND THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT IN THE LOTTERY--ADULTS WHO FOLLOWED THE RULES, FOLLOWED THE LAW, WERE TRAINED, ESTABLISHED MEDICAL PRACTICES IN THIS STATE, HAD PATIENTS WHOSE LIVES WERE DEPENDENT UPON THEM, HAD TO GO HOME AND WERE NOT ALLOWED TO REENTER. SO I UNDERSTAND THE PAIN AND THE COMPASSION WE HAVE FOR THE DREAMER YOUTH. IT'S A SYSTEM THAT DOESN'T WORK. AND IT'S A SYSTEM THAT AT TIMES DOESN'T SEEM FAIR. [LB947]

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PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR KUEHN: BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE WE HAVE TO ESTABLISH RULES AND WE HAVE TO ABIDE BY THEM. CAPRICIOUS? PROBABLY. SOMETIMES SEEMINGLY UNJUST, YES. BUT WE ESTABLISH THE RULES AND WE FOLLOW THEM. MY ONGOING CONCERN CONTINUES TO BE WITH LB947 THAT IT TAKES THE DECISION OF WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE LICENSES TO GET OUT OF OUR HANDS. BY ALLOWING IT TO BE VIA THE REAL ID ACT, WE HAVE NO CONTROL AS A STATE TO RESTRICT IT SIMPLY TO THE DREAMERS. YES, THE DAPA ADULTS ARE CURRENTLY CAUGHT UP IN A FEDERAL INJUNCTION AND A SUPREME COURT STATUS. BUT ONCE THAT IS RESOLVED AND ANOTHER ISSUE COMES ABOUT, WE'VE LOST CONTROL OVER WHO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT THE DREAMERS, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHOEVER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUTSIDE OF OUR CONTROL DECIDES WILL BE IN THAT DEFERRED STATUS THROUGH THE REAL ID ACT. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S VETO, TO VOTE NO ON THIS MOTION. LET'S LOOK AT THIS LEGISLATION NEXT YEAR, TAILOR IT SPECIFICALLY TO THE DREAMERS WITH GREATER CLARITY OF WHAT'S HAPPENING... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB947]

SENATOR KUEHN: ...IN THE FEDERAL SYSTEM. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB947]

SENATOR KUEHN: THANK YOU. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KUEHN. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) DEBATE CONTINUES. SENATOR SCHUMACHER. [LB947]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. WITH MAYBE EXCEPTION OF SENATOR CHAMBERS, NONE OF US ARE GOING TO BE IN THIS BODY LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE ACCUMULATED THE PERSPECTIVE AND WISDOM THAT IT PROBABLY IS NECESSARY TO GOVERN WISELY. THAT BEING SAID, THIS IS I THINK MY THIRD TIME I WILL FACE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE VETO OF THE GOVERNOR SHOULD BE OVERRIDDEN ON AN ISSUE OF THIS PARTICULAR NATURE. THE FIRST TIME WAS AT THE END OF MY SECOND YEAR WHEN SENATOR FLOOD--AND I THINK I WILL REMEMBER HIS

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SPEECH A LONG TIME--WAS SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF THE BILL HE INTRODUCED FOR PRENATAL CARE. AND HE SAID, BEFORE I LEAVE THIS BODY, I WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT. I THOUGHT THAT WAS ODD BECAUSE HE WAS SPEAKER FOR SIX YEARS. HE PROBABLY WAS IN ON EVERY SIGNIFICANT DEAL THAT THE BODY UNDERTOOK. BUT HE CHOSE THAT ONE TO SAY THAT LANGUAGE. AND IT CAME TO A VOTE FOR THE OVERRIDE. THE WHAT IS NOW SENIOR CLASS WAS THERE. AND YOU COULD FEEL THE ROOM SHAKE AS THEY TREMBLED IN THEIR BOOTS BECAUSE THEY WERE FACING AN IMMEDIATE ELECTION. IT WAS A HOT POTATO ISSUE. IT WAS AN ISSUE IN WHICH THEY KNEW THAT PRESSING THAT GREEN BUTTON MIGHT BE THROWING THE SWITCH ON THEIR ELECTRIC CHAIR. THE 30 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION THAT GETS WORKED UP ABOUT SUCH ISSUES WAS WORKED UP AND SENDING IN E-MAILS. MY CLASS WAS A LITTLE BIT MORE REMOTELY OFF. WE WERE A COUPLE YEARS AWAY FROM ELECTION, BUT WE FELT THAT THE BUTTERFLIES ALSO--POWERFUL GOVERNOR, ARTICULATE 30 PERCENT THAT WERE RILED UP ABOUT THE WRONGFULNESS OF THE PRENATAL CARE, HOW THE MEXICAN WOMEN WILL BE ASSEMBLED AT OUR BORDER READY TO FLOOD INTO THE STATE IN ORDER TO GET FREE PRENATAL CARE. ALL KINDS OF BOOGEYMAN STORIES, ALL KINDS OF EFFORT TO BRING THE FEAR FROM OUR DARKEST SIDE TO THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE. AND IT CAME TIME TO PUSH THE BUTTON. MOMENTARILY, ENOUGH OF US WHO WANTED TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT BE EXPEDIENT, PUSHED THE BUTTON AND WE OVERRODE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? IT WAS ALMOST A MIRACLE IT HAPPENED BECAUSE INSTEAD OF HELL FIRE FIRING DOWN ON US, THE WHOLE ISSUE EVAPORATED LIKE A BLOCK OF DRY ICE ON A HOT SUMMER DAY. IT WAS GONE. ALL THE SENIORS CAME BACK, REELECTED. IN MY REELECTION, MY CLASS, I CAN'T RECALL ANSWERING A QUESTION ABOUT IT. WE CREATED THE MONSTER AND BY COURAGE WE EVAPORATED HIM. YOU WERE HERE LAST YEAR. THEY HAVE THE SAME THING ON, WHAT WAS IT, DRIVER'S LICENSES. IF WE DIDN'T STAND OUR GROUND AS THE LAST STATE IN THE UNION TO BE RIGHT AND STAND FOR LAWFULNESS, THE WORLD WOULD BE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE. AND WE PUSHED THE GREEN BUTTON ON THE OVERRIDE AND THE ISSUE EVAPORATED. WE STAND HERE TODAY--SAME ISSUES, SAME SENTIMENTS, SAME CHURNING, SAME FEARS, AND WE HAVE A WAY... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: ...TO MAKE IT EVAPORATE: PUSH THE GREEN BUTTON. IT'S WORKED. WHAT WE NEED TO LEARN AND LEARN IT'S KNOWLEDGE THAT COMES SLOWLY, IS THAT BY DOING RIGHT, WHY, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AND

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SAYING LET'S BE CORRECT, LET'S BE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY, WE NOT ONLY DO WHAT IS EXPEDIENT FOR OURSELVES POLITICALLY BUT WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA. SO, FOLKS, UNLOCK THE CHAINS THAT BIND THEE. PUSH THE GREEN BUTTON. THANK YOU. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. SENATOR McCOY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. I RISE THIS MORNING TO OPPOSE THE MOTION TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR ON LB947. I'VE OPPOSED THIS BILL FROM THE BEGINNING, AS I HAVE OPPOSED ANY BILL IN MY EIGHT YEARS HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE THAT SOUGHT TO GIVE BENEFITS TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. YOU KNOW, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP IN MIND, AS HAS BEEN TALKED ABOUT TODAY, THAT WE LIVE IN A WORLD IN WHICH OUR IMMIGRATION SYSTEM ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL IS BROKEN. AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S A PARTISAN STATEMENT WHEN I SAY THAT. AND UNTIL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GETS UNDER CONTROL THE SITUATION WE FIND OURSELVES IN, EVERY STATE LEGISLATURE IS PROBABLY GOING TO WRESTLE WITH ISSUES SIMILAR TO WHAT WE HAVE BEFORE US TODAY. YOU KNOW, TODAY I THINK OF WHAT I'M SURE IS A SCENE THAT IS COMMON. I'VE SEEN THE PICTURES. WE'LL TRAVEL TO A FOREIGN LAND LATER ON THIS YEAR TO CHINA AND I KNOW IT'S A SCENE THAT'S OFTEN SEEN IN CHINA AND IN MANY NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD. AND THAT IS LINES UPON LINES UPON LINES OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHO WANT TO COME TO THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE FOR A BETTER LIFE. AND A LOT OF THEM WHO STAND IN THOSE LINES DAY AFTER DAY, MONTH AFTER MONTH, YEAR AFTER YEAR AND NEVER GET TO COME HERE PRIMARILY BECAUSE A BODY OF WATER, GEOGRAPHY, SOMETIMES MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE. SOMETIMES A FAMILY MEMBER OR TWO MAKES IT AND SPENDS SOMETIMES THE REST OF THEIR LIVES NEVER GETTING TO SEE THOSE INDIVIDUALS, THOSE LOVED ONES AGAIN. THIS ISSUE IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE WE HAVE A LONG BORDER WITH A NEIGHBORING NATION TO THE SOUTH. AND MANY INDIVIDUALS, NOT JUST THE MEXICAN-U.S. BORDER, ALSO OUR NORTHERN BORDER SOMETIMES BUT LESS FREQUENTLY, WE HAVE A WHOLE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY WHO CAME HERE BECAUSE GEOGRAPHY DIDN'T SEPARATE THEM FROM THE UNITED STATES. AND HOW CAN YOU BLAME THEM? THEY CAME FOR A BETTER LIFE, TOO, AND NOT JUST ONE FOR THEM, ONE FOR THEIR KIDS. I'D PROBABLY DARE ANY ONE OF US IF IN A SIMILAR SITUATION WE WOULDN'T DO THE SAME THING. YOU WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR THOSE YOU LOVE. BUT AT SOME POINT, COLLEAGUES, WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE

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WE ARE NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND WE HAVE TO MAINTAIN SOME SEMBLANCE OF A RESPECT FOR THE LAWS THAT ARE IN PLACE AND A RECOGNITION THAT IT MAY BE PRENATAL CARE ONE YEAR, IN-STATE TUITION IS ANOTHER YEAR, DRIVER'S LICENSES ANOTHER SESSION, OR THIS SESSION PROFESSIONAL LICENSES. AND THE LIST WILL GO ON AND ON UNTIL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO TAKE THIS ISSUE ON. WE'RE NOT HELPING THEM. WE'RE NOT ENCOURAGING THEM TO ADDRESS THIS SITUATION BY OVERRIDING THE GOVERNOR TODAY. IT MAKES IT EASIER, COLLEAGUES,... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR McCOY: ...FOR THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO DO NOTHING WHEN LEGISLATURES, STATE LEGISLATURES ACT AS WE ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO ACT TODAY. WE GIVE THEM LICENSE TO DO NOTHING. I THINK THAT'S WRONG. THIS WILL BE MY LAST TIME ON THE FLOOR TO ADDRESS AN ISSUE LIKE THIS. BUT I'LL LEAVE THIS LEGISLATURE LOVING WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR NATION. AND WANTING TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THE LAW. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOY. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) THE DEBATE CONTINUES. SENATOR COASH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, WE TALK A LOT ABOUT, NOT ONLY IN THIS BODY BUT I KNOW IT BECAME AN ISSUE ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL FOR MANY OF US, WE TALK A LOT ABOUT THE SUPPORT OF BUSINESS AND NEBRASKA BEING A BUSINESS-FRIENDLY STATE, OPEN FOR BUSINESS AND THE EFFORTS OF THE LEGISLATURE OUGHT TO SUPPORT THAT NOTION, THAT WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS. BUT AFTER THE ACTIONS OF THIS LEGISLATION OVER NOT ONLY THIS YEAR BUT IN PAST YEARS, I'M WONDERING IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE. IT MAY BE JUST A LOT OF TALK. I DO SIT ON THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND I LISTENED TO THE BUSINESSES. I LISTENED TO THEM ON THIS BILL. I LISTENED TO THEM OUTSIDE OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. AND WHAT DO WE HEAR FROM THEM? WELL, WE HEAR THAT WORK FORCE IS THEIR NUMBER ONE ISSUE--WORK FORCE, WORK FORCE, WORK FORCE. SENATOR SEILER MENTIONED SOME OF THE FOLKS WHO HAVE TESTIFIED OR GONE ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL INCLUDING THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE STATE, OF LINCOLN, OF OMAHA, THE NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN. ACCORDING TO SOME, THE RANCHERS AND THE BUSINESS

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OWNERS OF THIS STATE ARE JUST LEFT WING EXTREMISTS. WELL, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT BECAUSE I ASKED THEM. WHAT DID THEY TELL ME? THEY SAY THIS IS JUST ABOUT WORKERS FOR US. WE CAN'T GROW OUR BUSINESSES WITHOUT A WORK FORCE. COLLEAGUES, THIS IS NOT AN AMNESTY BILL. THIS GIVES NO ONE LEGAL STATUS BECAUSE THEY ARE ALREADY LEGALLY HERE. THEY HAVE A LEGAL STATUS TO BE HERE. NOTHING IN LB947 CHANGES THAT. IT'S THE SAME...THINK ABOUT THIS, COLLEAGUES. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THESE STUDENTS, YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ARE UNABLE TO FIND WORK BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS ON LB947? THAT SAME LEGAL STATUS THAT THEY ALREADY HAVE WILL ALLOW THEM TO TAKE BENEFITS. GUESS WHO'S PAYING FOR THAT? I'M CONFUSED. WE TALK ABOUT THE SECOND HOUSE FREQUENTLY HERE AND WE SAY THAT'S THE PEOPLE. WELL, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHO SHOWED UP ON THIS ISSUE. PULL UP LB947, PULL UP THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT, LOOK AT HOW MANY PEOPLE SHOWED UP TO OPPOSE THIS BILL--ZERO. AND I CAN TELL YOU FROM EIGHT YEARS ON THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WATCH THESE TYPES OF BILLS AND THEY FIND TIME TO COME DOWN AND TESTIFY. BEFORE IT COMES UP, I'LL PREEMPT IT. I KNOW THEY'RE BUSY CITIZENS. THEY DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TIME TO COME HERE, BUT THEY DO ON ISSUES LIKE THIS BECAUSE I'VE SEEN THEM IN EIGHT YEARS SHOW UP IN FRONT OF THAT COMMITTEE AND TELL THAT COMMITTEE, WHEN YOU DO THIS, YOU ARE FLYING IN THE FACE OF--WHAT HAVE WE HEARD OVER AND OVER THIS MORNING?--RULE OF LAW. YOU'RE GIVING BENEFITS TO ILLEGALS. NOT ONE PERSON SHOWED UP AT THIS HEARING. BUT WHO DID SHOW UP WERE THE EMPLOYERS. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR COASH: THEY SHOWED UP AND SAID THIS IS ABOUT WORK FORCE FOR US. WE NEED THEM. THEY'RE...WE ARE TRYING TO COMPETE IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY. WE ARE COMPETING FOR LABOR NOT JUST FROM OUR NEIGHBORING STATES, BUT ACROSS THE GLOBE. AND WHAT MESSAGE ARE WE SENDING TO THOSE EMPLOYERS? ARE WE OPEN FOR BUSINESS LIKE WE SAY WE ARE? LIKE SO MANY OF US PUT ON OUR CAMPAIGN LITERATURE? OR DO WE SEND THAT MESSAGE BACK TO THE BUSINESSES THAT SAYS, NO, WE KNOW IT. WE'VE HEARD YOU. WE'RE NOT GOING DO IT. AND WE'LL STAND WITH LB947 BECAUSE IT'S WHAT WE HAVE. IT'S WHAT WE CAN DO. IT'S THE MECHANISM WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US TO START TO FILL THAT GAP IN A WORK FORCE. AND THESE ARE NOT LOW-SKILLED, LOW-PAYING JOBS BY THE WAY. THESE ARE HIGH-PAID, HIGHLY SKILLED JOBS. AND THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE THOSE QUALIFICATIONS... [LB947]

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PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB947]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR COASH. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, MEMBERS. I'M A CLIPPER. I STILL PULL OUT A SCISSORS AND LOOK AT NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES AND CLIP THINGS AND KEEP THINGS. I AM NOT A SCANNER. I DO NOT SAVE WHAT I SCAN TO THE CLOUD. SOME DAY I WILL PROBABLY DO THAT. BUT AS BEEN THE CASE IN RECENT HISTORY, I AM AND STILL CONTINUE TO BE A CLIPPER. AND I CLIPPED AN ARTICLE THAT CAME OUT OF THE OP-ED SECTION OF LOS ANGELES TIMES BACK IN 2010 WHEN, AS SENATOR SCHUMACHER REMINDS ME, WE WERE DEALING WITH THAT ISSUE THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO PERHAPS LEAD US TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, THE PRENATAL CARE ISSUE, WHICH AS HE POINTS OUT, WAS ALL HAT AND NO CATTLE AS AN ARGUMENT. BUT HERE'S THE QUOTE THAT CAME FROM THAT OP-ED PIECE. WHEN IT COMES TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, NOBODY SEEMS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. IF YOU EAT VEGETABLES, ENJOY RESTAURANTS, RESIDE IN A HOUSE BUILT IN THE LAST 30 YEARS, OR EVER LET A VALET PARK YOUR CAR, THE CHANCES ARE YOU'RE IMPLICATED IN THE HYPOCRISY OF THE POLITICS THAT ALLOWS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO WORK ILLEGALLY IN THIS COUNTRY. HYPOCRISY, NOW WE HAVE A BILL...THIS WAS SIX YEARS AGO. NOW WE HAVE A BILL THAT DEALS WITH DEALS WITH PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE. WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE ROOFING HOUSES, CONSTRUCTING HIGHWAYS, PICKING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEKING PROFESSIONAL LICENSES WHICH THEY CAN DO IF WE ALLOW THEM TO LEGALLY IN THIS COUNTRY. THE TREND HERE SEEMS TO BE AN ONGOING ASSIMILATION OF THIS POPULATION INTO THIS COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO TAKE ACTION. AND I'M SORRY, WE CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT. WE KEEP WAITING FOR THAT. IT'S A COMFORTABLE EXCUSE FOR US TO GET ON OUR SOAP BOX AND SAY THIS IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY. THEY'RE NOT ADDRESSING IT. THE DYSFUNCTION THAT WE ALWAYS TALK ABOUT, OR READ ABOUT AT LEAST, IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THEIR INABILITY TO GRASP THIS LEVEL OF CONTROVERSY HAS LEFT US AS STATES TRYING TO DO THE BEST JOB WE CAN OF COPE WITH IT OURSELVES. AND TO SAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEAL WITH IT PASSES THE BUCK. THIS MAY OR MAY NOT PASS. I WILL SUPPORT THE OVERRIDE. IT MAY OR MAY NOT PASS. IF IT DOES NOT PASS, YOU'LL BE BACK

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HERE AGAIN DEALING WITH THE HYPOCRISY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOT TAKING ACTION. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO MAKE ONE SMALL STEP THAT ACCOMMODATES THE PROBLEM THAT WE HAVE WITH HAVING ENOUGH TRAINED PROFESSIONALS TO CARRY OUT THE JOBS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO US, WHETHER IT'S IN HEALTHCARE. AND I KNOW SOME OF THE INDIVIDUALS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE ARE TRYING TO PURSUE LICENSURE IN HEALTHCARE--HAVE WE NOT TALKED ABOUT HOW THAT'S A PROBLEM IN THIS STATE WHEN IT COMES TO HAVING THE APPROPRIATE WORK FORCE?--AND IN A LOT OF OTHER PROFESSIONAL AREAS THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A PROCESS TO DULY LICENSE THOSE INDIVIDUALS. I MIGHT HAVE HAD A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS THIS MY FIRST YEAR DOWN HERE OR MY SECOND YEAR DOWN HERE. BUT I'VE PRETTY MUCH HAD ENOUGH OF DEALING WITH IMMIGRATION ISSUES BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE THE ONES WHO ARE GOING TO DEAL WITH IT. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO DEAL WITH IT, NOT IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. AND TO SAY THAT'S THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM WHILE WE CONTINUE... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR GLOOR: ...TO BENEFIT ON THE WORK OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS IN OTHER WAYS IS PART OF THAT CONTINUING HYPOCRISY OF IMMIGRATION. AND I'M NOT GOING TO BE A PART OF IT. THANK YOU. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR. SENATOR BAKER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR BAKER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. MY STAFF AND I HAVE FIELDDED A LOT OF PHONE CALLS AND RECEIVED MANY E-MAILS ON THIS ISSUE. WE HEARD FROM A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE ASKING ME TO UPHOLD THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. HOWEVER, WE'VE HEARD FROM SUBSTANTIALLY MORE WHO ARE ASKING ME TO VOTE YES ON THE OVERRIDE. MY CAREER IS IN EDUCATION. I ALWAYS KNEW WHAT BUSINESS I WAS IN. SCHOOLS ARE IN THE BOYS AND GIRLS BUSINESS. WE HAD A SIGN IN OUR BOARD ROOM, IN OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION ROOM. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF TOUGH ISSUES, SOONER OR LATER, A BOARD MEMBER WOULD POINT THOUGH THAT SIGN WHICH POSED A SIMPLE QUESTION: IS IT GOOD FOR KIDS? I AM CONVINCED LB947 IS SOLIDLY WITHIN ALL LEGAL BOUNDS. IT COSTS THE STATE NOTHING. THE CRITICAL QUESTION, IS LB947 GOOD FOR KIDS, GOOD FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS STATE WHO WANT TO DO WHAT WE ASK ALL OF

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OUR STUDENTS TO DO--BE SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR STUDIES, IDENTIFY CAREER GOALS, PURSUE THOSE GOALS RIGOROUSLY AND PURPOSEFULLY. LB947 IS GOOD FOR KIDS, WITHOUT QUESTION. I'D LIKE TO YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR MELLO, THANK YOU. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BAKER. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. THERE'S BEEN SOME GOOD POINTS MADE IN THE OVERRIDE DISCUSSION TODAY. AND THERE'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN SOME PERSPECTIVES AND SOME INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED THAT I GENERALLY FEEL HAS BEEN INACCURATE. IT'S BEEN MISINFORMED WITH THE HOPES OF TRYING ONCE AGAIN TO TAKE YOU OFF OF WHAT LB947 HAS BEEN ABOUT SINCE IT WAS INTRODUCED IN THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO. SENATOR SEILER MENTIONED TO YOU, EVERYONE ON THE FLOOR DEBATE. THE BILL CAME OUT OF COMMITTEE 8-0. THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION TO LB947. I REPEAT, THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION TO LB947. THAT ALONE, COLLEAGUES, THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, SHOULD SOUND ALARM BELLS OF REALLY, WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT, REALLY WHAT IS THE ISSUE. AND TO TRY TO MARRY THIS BILL TO A NUMBER OF ARGUMENTS PEOPLE USE WITH REGARDS TO FEDERAL IMMIGRATION, COLLEAGUES, THAT'S CHALLENGING. IT'S A CHALLENGING ARGUMENT TO ACCEPT BECAUSE WE ARE NOT TAKING A VOTE ON LB947 ABOUT FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW. THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE DOING. WHAT WE'RE DECIDING IS WE ARE GOING TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LAWFUL PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE ABLE TO GET A COMMERCIAL OR PROFESSIONAL LICENSE. ANOTHER ISSUE THAT WAS RAISED TO ME WAS THE CONCERN THAT WE'RE THE ONLY STATE DOING THIS. WHY ARE WE... WE'RE THE ONLY ONES IN THE COUNTRY DOING THIS. COLLEAGUES, THAT'S NOT ACCURATE. I DISCUSSED THIS ON GENERAL FILE, DISCUSSED IT ON SELECT FILE. THE REALITY IS A NUMBER OF OTHER STATES HAVE ACTUALLY DONE MUCH MORE BROAD, SWEEPING LEGISLATION THAN LB947 TO ALLOW ALL IMMIGRANTS REGARDLESS OF THEIR LAWFUL OR UNLAWFUL STATUS TO GET LICENSES OR OTHER BENEFITS. THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE DOING. AND THE REASON WE HAVE TO DO LB947 IS BECAUSE A LAW WE PASSED MY FIRST YEAR DOWN HERE, LB403, WHICH IS A VERY UNIQUE LAW THAT ONLY A FEW OTHER STATES IN THE COUNTRY HAVE CREATED SOMETHING SIMILAR TO, WHICH IS A VERY BROAD, SWEEPING PROHIBITION OF ANY KIND OF PUBLIC BENEFIT TO ANYONE THAT MAY MEET A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LAWFULLY PRESENT CLASSIFICATIONS.

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AND THAT, COLLEAGUES, IS REALLY WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY...THOSE WHO OPPOSE... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR MELLO: ...LB947 AND WANT TO SUSTAIN THE GOVERNOR'S VETO ARE TAKING THE POSITION THAT REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SAYS, THEY SIMPLY DO NOT WANT TO HEAR IT. REGARDLESS OF THE PRESIDENT, WHETHER IT'S A REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, HAS DONE OVER THREE DECADES WHEN IT COMES TO DEFERRED ACTION OR OTHER KINDS OF CLASSIFICATIONS OF LAWFUL PRESENCE, THEY JUST REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT. WHAT WE'RE DOING IN LB947 ON THE OTHER HAND IS ACKNOWLEDGING THESE PEOPLE ARE FOLLOWING THE FEDERAL RULE OF LAW THAT HAS GRANTED THEM LAWFUL PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY, TO LIVE, WORK, AND MAKE OUR ECONOMY STRONGER. THAT, COLLEAGUES, IS WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN CHANGE. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN CHANGE ABOUT WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DONE IN REGARDS TO CLASSIFYING PEOPLE UNDER THE REAL ID ACT. BUT WHAT WE CAN DO IS ACKNOWLEDGE THOUSANDS OF YOUNG IMMIGRANTS WHO WANT TO STAY IN NEBRASKA, CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ECONOMY, AND HELP US BE A MORE PROSPEROUS... [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB947]

SENATOR MELLO: ...STATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. WE'VE HEARD ABOUT THE RULE OF LAW REPEATEDLY THIS MORNING. LET'S THINK ABOUT A RULE OF COMMON SENSE. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBER, LAST YEAR I HAD A LITTLE CONCEALED CARRY BILL, LB190. PASSED THE FIRST ROUND OVERWHELMINGLY. I ASKED THE SPEAKER TO PUT IT ON HOLD BECAUSE THERE WERE SOME QUESTIONS OF WHAT THE SUPREME COURT MIGHT SAY ABOUT SOME OF THE LANGUAGE IN IT. WE PASSED THE BILL THE REST OF THE WAY THIS YEAR. THE GOVERNOR SIGNED IT AFTER WE FOUND OUT WHAT THE SUPREME COURT HAD TO SAY. AND THE LANGUAGE WE HAD IN IT WAS FINE. I THINK COMMON SENSE CALLS ON US TO

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DO THE SAME THING NOW. THE SUPREME COURT WILL MAKE A DECISION IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR ON SOMETHING THAT WILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF EFFECT ON THIS BILL. I THINK IT PRUDENT AND WISE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT THE SUPREME COURT SAYS. GET THE LANGUAGE FROM THE COURT. THERE WILL BE A NEW ADMINISTRATION WHEN YOU COME BACK NEXT YEAR. I WON'T BE AMONG YOU. BUT THEN THE ROAD WILL BE CLEAR AS TO WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH THIS. I HAVE A LOT OF THE SO-CALLED DREAMERS IN MY DISTRICT. BUT I THINK IT TERRIBLE UNFAIR TO THEM TO PASS SOMETHING HERE THAT GIVES THEM A GREAT HOPE AND TO HAVE IT DASHED BY THE SUPREME COURT. LOOK AT IT NEXT YEAR WHEN WE KNOW WHAT THE COURT AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ARE GOING TO DO. LET'S NOT LAY OUT A FIELD OF DREAMS THAT WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THE PLOW TO ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL. YOU KNOW, EVEN THE INTRODUCER AGREES THAT LB947 INCLUDES PEOPLE WITH PENDING ASYLUM, TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE STATUS, AND DAPA INDIVIDUALS DEPENDING ON THE SUPREME COURT U.S. v. TEXAS IN WHICH NEBRASKA IS ALSO INVOLVED. AND YOU KNOW, THERE'S ANOTHER PATH FOR THE DREAMERS TOO. THEY CAN BECOME CITIZENS. THERE IS A PATH TO DO THAT. IT'S HARD, IT'S CUMBERSOME, BUT IT'S MORE FAIR TO THOSE WHO HAVE COME IN LEGALLY BEFORE. TO GRANT THIS STATUS THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT JUST ISN'T RIGHT AND FAIR TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONE IT CORRECTLY. [LB947 LB190]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I UNDERSTAND A GOOD MAJORITY OF THESE YOUNGSTERS DIDN'T HAVE A SAY IN WHETHER OR NOT THEY CAME. BUT THEY DO HAVE A SAY IN HOW THEY PROCEED AND THERE IS A PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP FOR THEM. AND LET'S LET THEM DO IT THE LEGAL WAY INSTEAD OF CHANGING THE LAWS TO MAKE OURSELVES FEEL GOOD AND TO PUNISH THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE DONE IT THE CORRECT WAY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'D LIKE TO CORRECT SENATOR KRIST ON HIS STATEMENT OUT OF OUR STATE CONSTITUTION. HE QUOTED ARTICLE III...NO, ARTICLE I, SECTION 3: DUE PROCESS OF LAW. YES, EVERYBODY HERE HAS DUE PROCESS OF LAW, BUT HE DIDN'T READ FURTHER ON IN SECTION 25 OF ARTICLE I. RIGHTS OF PROPERTY; NO DISCRIMINATION; ALIENS. THERE

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SHALL BE NO DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES-- CITIZENS--IN RESPECT TO THE ACQUISITION, OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, ENJOYMENT OR DESCENT OF PROPERTY. THE RIGHT OF ALIENS IN RESPECT TO THE ACQUISITION, ENJOYMENT AND DESCENT OF PROPERTY MAY BE REGULATED BY LAW. THAT'S OUR STATE CONSTITUTION. THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT, SECTION 1: "ALL PERSONS BORN OR NATURALIZED IN THE UNITED STATES, AND SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION THEREOF, ARE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE STATE WHEREIN THEY RESIDE. NO STATE SHALL MAKE OR ENFORCE ANY LAW WHICH SHALL ABRIDGE THE PRIVILEGES OR IMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES." LET'S CLARIFY THE LAW. WE HAVE A HISTORY IN AMERICA OF LEGAL IMMIGRATION. IT HAS BUILT OUR CHARACTER OF THIS NATION. SOME CAME AS INDENTURED SERVANTS. SOME CAME LOOKING FOR FOOD, STARVATION IN IRELAND, SOME OF MY HERITAGE. SOME CAME TO AVOID TYRANNY IN EUROPE. SOME CAME FROM SLAVERY, BY THE WAY, LEGAL SLAVERY, A STAIN ON OUR HISTORY. FROM THERE, THEY TOILED THE LAND. THEY BECAME SHARECROPPERS AFTER THE GREAT WAR, TO GUARANTEE FREEDOM IN OUR COUNTRY, THE CIVIL WAR. IT TOOK FOUR GENERATIONS OF MY FAMILY BEFORE SOMEBODY GOT PAST THE EIGHTH GRADE. I'M ONE OF THE FIRST. I WASN'T GIVEN SCHOLARSHIPS. I LIVED BEHIND AN ANIMAL CLINIC, CLEANED CAGES. DID I HAVE A 4.9 OR A 4.8 AVERAGE? NO. I WENT TO CLASS ABOUT HALF THE TIME BECAUSE I HAD TO WORK. THAT BUILDS CHARACTER. THAT IS THE CHARACTER OF THIS COUNTRY. HERE WE STAND, THE SECOND GENERATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, STILL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. WE BYPASS OUR HERITAGE. WE GIVE RIGHTS TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. YOU UNDERSTAND NO MATTER WHAT YOUR COLOR OR CREED OR BELIEFS, A LOT OF US HAVE THAT HERITAGE THAT BUILT CHARACTER, THAT MAKES AMERICA GREAT. BUT THIS BODY, SOME BORN WITH SILVER SPOONS IN THEIR MOUTH WHO UNDERSTAND NO STRUGGLE AND THE HONOR TO BE AN AMERICAN, CAN'T UNDERSTAND POVERTY. THEY VOTE BECAUSE OF THEIR FEELINGS. WE MUST UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW. WE MUST HONOR OUR HERITAGE. WE CANNOT ALL OF A SUDDEN FORGET IT ALL. IT IS AN HONOR TO BE A CITIZEN. I HOPE AND PRAY NO MATTER WHAT CREED, RACE, OR WHERE YOU COME FROM, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CORRECTS OUR ERRORS. DON'T QUOTE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO ME. THEY CAME HERE ILLEGALLY BECAUSE OF THEM. THEY BROKE THE UNIONS IN OUR PACKING PLANTS AND HIRED ILLEGALS. THEY PUT ADS UP IN MEXICO SAYING COME TO GRAND ISLAND, COME TO SCHUYLER. WE HAVE JOBS FOR YOU. THEY'RE SHARKS. IT'S WHAT MAKES FREE ENTERPRISE GREAT, BUT DON'T QUOTE THEM TO ME. I HAVE NO ANIMOSITY TO ANYBODY... [LB947]

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PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR GROENE: ...WHO WANTED TO BETTER THEMSELVES. THEY WERE TOLD, THEY WERE BROUGHT UP BY BUSES COME TO OUR PLANTS, OUR PACKING PLANTS. DON'T QUOTE THE GREED OF HUGE CORPORATIONS TO ME. QUOTE MY HERITAGE. QUOTE THE HERITAGE OF THIS COUNTRY AND HONOR IT. KEEP STATES' RIGHTS SEPARATE FROM FEDERAL RIGHTS BECAUSE YOU FEEL--YOU FEEL. THERE'S 4,000 DACA KIDS. ONLY A FEW ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE. THE REST WILL WORK. THEY WILL DRIVE THE TRUCKS. THEY WILL TOIL IN THE FIELDS AS OUR ANCESTORS BEFORE US DID. THERE'S ONLY A FEW HERE LOOKING FOR A PRIVILEGE UNEARNED. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR GARRETT, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

SENATOR GARRETT: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES, GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. I'VE GOT TO ADMIT I'M SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY THIS WHOLE DEBATE WE'RE HAVING HERE. LAST YEAR WE DEBATED ABOUT GIVING DRIVER'S LICENSES TO DACA RECIPIENTS. WE WERE THE LAST STATE TO HAVE DONE THAT. AS YOU KNOW, I'VE GOT A MILITARY BACKGROUND. I WAS ASTOUNDED TO SEE THAT DACA RECIPIENTS COULD SERVE IN THE MILITARY, THEY COULD SERVE IN AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, DIE FOR THIS COUNTRY. BUT THEY COME BACK TO NEBRASKA AND COULDN'T GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE. NOW WE'RE FACED WITH, OKAY, WE'LL LET YOU...DON'T CONFLATE PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WITH THE PROBLEM THAT WE HAVE HERE. WE HAVE DACA RECIPIENTS WHO HAVE GOT LEGAL STATUS, THEY'RE PAYING TAXES, THEY'RE WORKING JOBS AND WE'RE GOING TO SIT HERE AND TELL THEM THAT THEY'RE ONLY CAPABLE OF WORKING MENIAL JOBS, LABORER JOBS, LANDSCAPE LABORERS WHEN THEY'VE STROVE TO GET THE EDUCATION TO BECOME CPAs, TO BECOME NURSES, TO BECOME PROFESSIONALS. BUT WE'RE GOING TO TELL THEM THAT THEY CAN ONLY WORK MENIAL JOBS. THAT'S AN EMBARRASSMENT. AGAIN, REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT PRESIDENT OBAMA AND WHAT HE'S DONE, THESE PEOPLE HAVE LEGAL STATUS. THEY PAY TAXES. THIS IS LIKE WE WANT TO CREATE A SERFDOM WHERE WE WANT TO HOLD THESE PEOPLE DOWN. YOU KNOW, I THINK BACK ABOUT THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN. WAY BACK IN THE DAYS IN THE SEGREGATED ARMY, BLACKS COULD ONLY SERVE IN THE KITCHEN AND THE MOTOR POOL. AND IT TOOK THE COURAGE OF PEOPLE LIKE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT TO SHOW THAT, HEY, BLACKS CAN FLY AIRPLANES. GUESS WHAT, THE 99th PURSUIT SQUADRON SHOT HOLES IN THAT WHOLE THEORY ABOUT THEM NOT BEING

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ABLE TO SERVE IN MORE IMPORTANT POSITIONS AND BECOME OFFICERS. COLLEAGUES, THIS IS PRETTY SIMPLE. I'M GOING TO VOTE TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. I NEVER DO THINGS LIKE THIS CASUALLY, BUT IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO. THESE FOLKS, THESE KIDS HAVE WORKED THEIR BUTTS OFF. THEY'VE WORKED, THEY'VE GONE TO SCHOOL. THEY DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE IN THIS STATE. WE HAVE A SKILLED LABOR SHORTAGE IN THIS STATE. THE FACT THAT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE CATTLEMEN, MAYOR STOTHERT, AND EVERYBODY ELSE HAVE COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF THIS. IT'S ALL ABOUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IT'S ALL ABOUT JOBS. AND SO I'M GOING TO VOTE TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S VETO. AND I'D LIKE TO YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR JIM SMITH. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GARRETT. SENATOR SMITH, 2:30. [LB947]

SENATOR SMITH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'LL BE VERY BRIEF HERE. I'M GOING TO READ SOME EXCERPTS FROM MAYOR'S JEAN STOTHERT'S LETTER TO THE LEGISLATURE DATED YESTERDAY. I KNOW MAYOR STOTHERT. I KNOW HER TO BE A VERY THOUGHTFUL, PRO-COMMERCE, PRAGMATIC, CONSERVATIVE LEADER OF OUR STATE'S LARGEST CITY. SHE DOES WRITE THAT LB947 HAS BEEN AMENDED TO ADDRESS THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES THAT CONCERNED SOME SENATORS. THERE IS NOW LANGUAGE THAT SPECIFIES PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL LICENSES WILL ONLY BE VALID DURING THE TIME THE IMMIGRANT HAS A VALID EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. THERE'S ALSO LANGUAGE THAT SPECIFIES NO OTHER PUBLIC BENEFITS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE IMMIGRANT OTHER THAN A PROFESSIONAL OR COMMERCIAL LICENSE FOR EMPLOYMENT. SHE CONTINUES THAT PARTY POLITICS SHOULD NOT DRIVE THIS ISSUE. THE CONCEPT OF LB947 CAN BE SUMMED UP VERY SIMPLY. IF A SMALL NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS ARE ALLOWED TO LIVE IN OUR COUNTRY LEGALLY AND HAVE BEEN ISSUED EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, WHY WOULD WE LIMIT THEIR POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS? PREVENTING IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FROM ACHIEVING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF NEBRASKA. SINCERELY, JEAN STOTHERT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OMAHA. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SMITH. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) CONTINUING WITH DEBATE, SENATOR DAVIS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB947]

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SENATOR DAVIS: QUESTION. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: MEMBERS, AS A POINT OF REFERENCE, WE'VE BEEN ON THIS MOTION FOR JUST SHORT OF TWO HOURS, WE'VE HEARD FROM 24 SPEAKERS WHO PUNCHED THEIR LIGHT, PLUS THOSE WHO WERE YIELDED SOME TIME. I'M GOING TO LEAVE IT TO THE BODY TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO CURTAIL DEBATE. DO I SEE FIVE HANDS TO DO SO? I DO. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL DEBATE CEASE? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF CEASING DEBATE VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED WHO CARE TO? RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB947]

CLERK: 26 AYES, 4 NAYS TO CEASE DEBATE. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: DEBATE DOES CEASE. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR MOTION. [LB947]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AS WE WIND UP THE DISCUSSION THIS MORNING ON THE OVERRIDE OF LB947, THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF FACTUAL, PUNCTUAL, AND RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE THIS MORNING IN REGARDS TO WHY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS HAVE CHOSEN TO SUPPORT THIS BILL THROUGH A NUMBER OF ROUNDS OF DEBATE. AND AS I SEE IT, THE MOTION TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR ON LB947 COMES BACK TO A VERY SIMPLE PREMISE THAT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE COMMITTEE HEARING, WAS DISCUSSED ON MULTIPLE ROUNDS OF DEBATES. AND THAT PREMISE IS SIMPLE IN THE SENSE THAT IF YOU HAVE LAWFUL PRESENCE TO BE IN THE UNITED STATES, WE SHOULD GIVE YOU THE ABILITY TO WORK IN A PROFESSION THAT YOU HAVE THE SKILLS TO WORK IN. IT'S THAT SIMPLE, COLLEAGUES. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, REGARDLESS OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S DEFERRED ACTION OR BARACK OBAMA'S DEFERRED ACTION, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN LAWFUL STATUS TO A NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS TO LAWFULLY WORK IN THE UNITED STATES. REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE SUPREME COURT DECISION IS, WHICH AS I SAID EARLIER, IF THEY RULE THE NEWEST CONCEPT IS LAWFUL, THEN IT'S LAWFUL. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO CHANGE THAT. AND THIS WAS A SIMILAR ARGUMENT THAT WAS MADE LAST YEAR ON LB623, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN. ASIDE FROM THAT, WE CAN'T CHANGE THE WHAT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT IS GOING TO DO. WE CAN'T CHANGE WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO DO. BUT WHAT WE CAN DO IS WHAT WE HEARD FROM COUNTLESS YOUTH AT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON LB947. WHAT WE CAN DO IS WHAT WE

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HEARD FROM CONSERVATIVE BUSINESS GROUPS AND AGRICULTURE GROUPS WHO KNOW WE HAVE A WORK FORCE SHORTAGE. WE HAVE A POPULATION SHORTAGE. AND FOR US TO INVEST ANY MONEY IN EDUCATING AND PROVIDING TRAINING TO LAWFULLY PRESENT IMMIGRANTS, WHY WOULD WE NOT WANT THEM TO UTILIZE THE SKILLS THAT WE'VE TRAINED THEM FOR? WHY DO WE NOT WANT THEM TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO OUR ECONOMY, TO PAY MORE IN TAXES TO BE ABLE TO LOWER PROPERTY TAXES IN THE FUTURE, TO LOWER INCOME TAXES IN THE FUTURE AS WE SEE OUR ECONOMY GROW? AS I MENTIONED ON MY OPENING, COLLEAGUES, WE WILL BE REMEMBERED ON THIS BILL BECAUSE OF THE DIALOGUE WE'VE HAD, THE SIFTING FROM THE FACTS AND THE FICTION, AND REALIZING THAT THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST THIS BILL, COLLEAGUES, HAVE BEEN PURELY POLITICAL. IT'S BEEN ABOUT WHAT-IFS. IT'S BEEN ABOUT AN ISSUE THAT WE CANNOT CONTROL BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE THE FEDERAL OR THE STATE AUTHORITY TO DO SO. THAT'S AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL WHEN IT COMES TO IMMIGRATION POLICY. WHAT WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US IS THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE LAWFULLY PRESENT INDIVIDUALS WHO RESIDE IN NEBRASKA THE ABILITY TO GET A JOB IN A PROFESSION THAT THEY'VE BEEN TRAINED IN. WE WILL BE REMEMBERED, COLLEAGUES, OF WHETHER OR NOT WE PUT ASIDE THE POLITICAL RHETORIC, THE POLITICS THAT'S INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE, WHAT YOU'RE SEEING AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL OF BUILDING WALLS AND FENCES AND ROUNDING PEOPLE UP. OR WE WILL BE LOOKED AT AS A STATE THAT HAS TRIED TO ADDRESS THE ECONOMY THAT WE HAVE IN OUR STATE, BY FULFILLING JOBS THAT WE HAVE, THAT WE WILL BE LOOKED AT OF WHETHER OR NOT WE TRIED TO EMBRACE THE FUTURE WITH OUR WORK FORCE SHORTAGE AND THE NEED TO HAVE HIGHER SKILLED, MORE TALENTED YOUTH. OR WE WILL BE VIEWED AS LOOKING TO THE PAST, HOPING A STRATEGY SOMEDAY WILL WORK, HOPING THAT WE CAN FIND A WAY TO KEEP THE TALENTED PEOPLE FROM LEAVING OUR STATE AND MOVING TO NEIGHBORING STATES OR TO SOME OTHER BIG CITY. THIS IS AN ISSUE, COLLEAGUES, THAT RUNS ACROSS THE GAMUT--FROM CONSERVATIVE, MODERATE, LIBERAL; URBAN AND RURAL; FROM A CONSERVATIVE MAYOR IN OMAHA TO THE NEBRASKA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE. THERE ARE MULTIPLE, MULTIPLE ARGUMENTS OF WHY LB947 IS A GOOD BILL... [LB947 LB623]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB947]

SENATOR MELLO: ...WHY LB947 CAN CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY OF THE STATE BY ADDRESSING WORK FORCE SHORTAGES, TO TRY TO STOP THE RURAL DEPOPULATION THAT MANY OF YOU SEE ON A DAILY BASIS IN YOUR DISTRICTS, AND TO SHOW THAT WE ARE WELCOMING THE LAWFULLY PRESENT

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INDIVIDUALS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THEM STATUS TO BE HERE, TO WORK HERE, TO LIVE HERE, TO PAY TAXES, TO GO TO SCHOOL. AND WE'RE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT AND WE'RE WELCOMING THEM INTO OUR COMMUNITIES, WELCOMING THEM INTO OUR WORKPLACES, WELCOMING THEM INTO SMALL BUSINESSES, LARGE BUSINESSES ALIKE. THIRTY-THREE OF YOU VOTED TO PASS THIS BILL A WEEK AGO. THERE'S NOTHING THAT HAS CHANGED SINCE LAST WEEK. STICK WITH YOUR VOTE, MOVE THE STATE FORWARD, GROW OUR STATE, AND SUPPORT THE OVERRIDE TO VETO OF LB947. WITH THAT, MR. PRESIDENT, I'D LIKE TO DO A CALL OF THE HOUSE AND A ROLL CALL VOTE IN REGULAR ORDER. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. MEMBERS, THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB947]

CLERK: 48 AYES, 0 NAYS TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. THOSE UNEXCUSED SENATORS OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR SCHNOOR, COULD YOU CHECK IN, PLEASE? ALL MEMBERS ARE PRESENT. MEMBERS, THE QUESTION BEFORE US IS THE MOTION TO OVERRIDE. THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE. MR. CLERK, PLEASE CALL THE ROLL. [LB947]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1637-1638.) 31 AYES, 13 NAYS THAT LB947 BECOME LAW NOTWITHSTANDING THE OBJECTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR. [LB947]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THE MOTION TO OVERRIDE IS SUCCESSFUL. I RAISE THE CALL. THE CALL HAS BEEN RAISED. PROCEEDING NOW ON THE AGENDA, LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS, MR. CLERK. [LB947]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LR626 IS A RESOLUTION OFFERED BY SENATOR SEILER, IT ASKS THE LEGISLATURE TO CONGRATULATE JUDGE WILLIAM M. CONNOLLY ON HIS UPCOMING RETIREMENT FROM THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT. [LR626]

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PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR SEILER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK TO YOUR LR. [LR626]

SENATOR SEILER: MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, MEMBERS OF THE UNICAMERAL, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THIS LR. THIS IS A CONGRATULATIONS TO WILLIAM M. CONNOLLY WHO'S GOING TO RETIRE FROM THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT. I'VE LAID OUT HIS CREDENTIALS AND THE JUDGESHIPS HE'S HELD, COUNTY ATTORNEY STARTING IN 1964 IN HASTINGS, NEBRASKA. BUT I'D LIKE TELL IT YOU ABOUT THE MAN. THE MAN WAS A SUPER FATHER. HE WAS JUST A GREAT GUY. I FIRST HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK REAL CLOSE WITH BILL. WE WORKED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A LOT OF CASES, BUT WORKED WITH HIM. WE COACHED MIDGET FOOTBALL TOGETHER. AND THE FIRST TEAM WE HAD HADN'T WON A BALL GAME IN THREE YEARS AND WE WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP THAT YEAR, TWO YEARS IN A ROW. SO THEY MOVED US TO ANOTHER TEAM THAT HADN'T WON, AND WE WON FOUR MORE CHAMPIONSHIPS. AND THEN WE DECIDED WE GOT TOO OLD AND WENT ON TO DIFFERENT THINGS. BUT THIS IS JUST A GREAT GUY. THE LEGAL PROFESSION IS GOING TO BE THE BIG LOSER OF THIS. I KNOW THAT THE GOVERNOR WILL APPOINT A GOOD REPLACEMENT, BUT THEY WON'T MATCH BILL CONNOLLY. SO I'M ASKING TO VOTE AND BECAUSE OF THE LAYOVER TIME, WE NEED TO VOTE...I'M ASKING A GREEN VOTE ON THIS LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION. [LR626]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SEILER. SEEING NO MEMBERS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR SEILER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION. HE WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION. ALL IN THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED WHO CARE TO? RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LR626]

CLERK: 37 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADOPTION OF LR626. [LR626]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LR626 IS ADOPTED. MEMBERS, FOR PURPOSES OF THE RECORD, LET ME READ THE FOLLOWING, PLEASE. LB947, HAVING BEEN RETURNED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH HIS OBJECTIONS THERETO, AND AFTER RECONSIDERATION HAVING PASSED THE LEGISLATURE BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL MAJORITY, HAS BECOME LAW THIS 20th DAY OF APRIL 2016. NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA, MR. CLERK, IS LR627. [LR626 LB947 LR627]

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CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR HADLEY OFFERS LR627. IT CONGRATULATES, APPLAUDS, AND COMMENDS THE QUALITY OF MR. JOEL SARTORE'S PHOTOGRAPHS. [LR627]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SPEAKER HADLEY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO ADDRESS THIS LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION. [LR627]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, IT'S A REAL PLEASURE THAT I INTRODUCE LR627 FOR TWO OF OUR MOST OUTSTANDING PHOTOGRAPHERS IN THE WORLD WHO RESIDE IN NEBRASKA; THAT'S JOEL SARTORE AND MICHAEL FORSBERG. THEY ARE KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD FOR THEIR WORK. THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, LOOK AT THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, YOU WILL FIND JOEL SARTORE'S WORK ON THE FRONT PAGE AND IN THE MAGAZINE. IF YOU LOOK AT THE OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHER IN APRIL, YOU WILL FIND PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL FORSBERG. BOTH OF THEM ARE OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE CAN DO IN NEBRASKA AND THEY REPRESENT NEBRASKA THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. I APPRECIATE A GREEN VOTE ON THIS RESOLUTION. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR627]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. SEEING NO MEMBERS WISHING TO SPEAK, SPEAKER HADLEY WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF LR627. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED WHO CARE TO? RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LR627]

CLERK: 34 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADOPTION OF LR627, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR627]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LR627 IS ADOPTED. WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION AND CAPABLE OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS, I PROPOSE TO SIGN AND DO HEREBY SIGN THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS: LR415, LR455, LR620, LR621, LR622, LR623, LR624, LR625, LR626, AND LR627. ITEMS FOR THE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LR627 LR415 LR455 LR620 LR621 LR622 LR623 LR624 LR625 LR626]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I DO. I HAVE A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE REGARDING THE TRANSMITTAL OF LB947 AND THE CERTIFICATE AS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER; ALSO A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK REGARDING THE LEGISLATURE NOT TAKING ACTION ON LB935 AND LB580, AS WELL AS NOT TAKING ACTION ON THE CONSIDERATION OF LINE-

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ITEM VETOES TO LB867A, LB938A, AND LB1067A. ALSO, I HAVE A COMMUNICATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REGARDING CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS TO SPECIAL COMMITTEES. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1639-1642.) [LB947 LB935 LB580 LB867A LB938A LB1067A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT A COMMITTEE OF FIVE BE APPOINTED TO NOTIFY THE GOVERNOR THAT THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION OF THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE IS ABOUT TO COMPLETE ITS WORK AND TO RETURN WITH ANY MESSAGES THE GOVERNOR MAY HAVE FOR THE LEGISLATURE.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. I NOW APPOINT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE: SENATORS COOK, KEN HAAR, COASH, McCOY, AND SCHILZ. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE RETIRE TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER TO ESCORT THE GOVERNOR. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

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

PRESIDENT FOLEY: MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, IT'S MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT TO YOU THE GOVERNOR OF THE GREAT STATE OF NEBRASKA, THE HONORABLE PETE RICKETTS.

GOVERNOR RICKETTS: GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. GOOD MORNING. GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THAT WARM WELCOME. MR. SPEAKER...SORRY, MR. PRESIDENT--PROTOCOL FIRST--MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND FELLOW NEBRASKANS, IT IS A PRIVILEGE AND AN HONOR TO BE WITH YOU TODAY AS YOU WIND DOWN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE. FOLKS, WE LIVE IN THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD RIGHT HERE IN NEBRASKA, AND WE LIVE IN THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD BECAUSE OF OUR PEOPLE.

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NEBRASKANS ARE INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, IN THEIR CHURCHES, AND IN THEIR SCHOOLS. THEY WORK HARD, THEY'RE LOYAL, AND THEY'RE WELL-EDUCATED. IN OUR STATE, WE HAVE THE FOURTH LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE COUNTRY. FORBES SAYS WE'RE THE THIRD BEST STATE TO DO BUSINESS. WE HAVE ONE OF THE TOP TEN VOLUNTEERISM STATES. OUR HIGH SCHOOLS GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE SECOND HIGHEST RATE IN THE COUNTRY. AND WE'RE ONE OF THE TOP TEN HEALTHIEST STATES AS WELL. BUT IT'S OUR PEOPLE THAT MAKE THIS ALL POSSIBLE. AND THAT'S WHY IT'S A PRIVILEGE AND AN HONOR TO SERVE IN ELECTED OFFICE, TO SERVE OUR GREAT PEOPLE HERE IN NEBRASKA. I KNOW YOU ALL KNOW THAT AND THAT'S WHY I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA, THE SACRIFICES YOU MAKE TO BE AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILIES, THE LONG HOURS THAT YOU PUT IN. IN FACT, I'VE SEEN YOU PUT IN SOME OF THOSE LONG HOURS ON TV RECENTLY IN THE EVENINGS WHEN IT GETS KIND OF DARK IN HERE. I KNOW THAT YOU CARE ABOUT OUR STATE BECAUSE YOU SACRIFICE SO MUCH TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA. SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR WHAT YOU DO, EACH AND EVERY DAY TO MAKE THIS THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO LIVE. AND AS WE LOOK BACK UPON THIS SESSION AND WHAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH, I THINK WE CAN BE VERY PLEASED ABOUT THE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE THAT WE'VE DONE. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE DO IS SET A BUDGET TO MAKE SURE WE CONTINUE TO FUND THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES THAT WE PROVIDE TO THE CITIZENS OF OUR STATE, AND OF COURSE IMPORTANTLY, CONTROLLING THOSE EXPENSES. IF YOU LOOK AT THE BUDGET WE'VE CRAFTED, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO BOTH EFFECTIVELY. THE BUDGET BEFORE I CAME INTO OFFICE, WE GREW GOVERNMENT AT 6.5 PERCENT. IN THIS CURRENT BUDGET, IT'S 3.6 PERCENT. WE CUT THAT GROWTH NEARLY IN HALF WHILE STILL PROVIDING THOSE SERVICES. AND OF COURSE, THAT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE ONE OF THE KEY THINGS THAT NEBRASKANS WANT IS TAX RELIEF AND THE ONLY WAY TO PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE TAX RELIEF IS BY CONTROLLING SPENDING. AND OF COURSE, THAT RELATES TO ANOTHER ONE OF KEY THINGS THAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER. AND CERTAINLY, THE NUMBER ONE THING THAT I HEAR AS I TRAVEL AROUND THE STATE IS ADDRESSING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. AND THIS YEAR WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE THAT, STARTING ACTUALLY IN THE LAST SESSION WHEN WE INCREASED THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT RELIEF FUND BY OVER 45 PERCENT. AND THEN LAST YEAR STARTING AT THE STATE FAIR, I STARTED WORKING WITH CHAIRMAN GLOOR, CHAIR OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, AND CHAIRWOMAN SULLIVAN, CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, ON HOW WE CAN BUILD UPON THAT FOUNDATION TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. THE CULMINATION OF THAT WORK WAS LB958 AND LB959. THROUGH LB958, WE WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL \$20 MILLION A

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YEAR DIRECTED AT OUR FARMERS AND RANCHERS THROUGH THAT SAME PROPERTY TAX CREDIT RELIEF FUND TO PROVIDE DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR TAX RELIEF. THROUGH LB959, WE WILL PUT IN SOME EXPENSE CONTROL, SPECIFICALLY AROUND THE QUALIFIED UNDERTAKING FUND, REDUCING THAT OVERRIDE OF THAT BUDGET...THE LEVY LIMIT FROM 5.2 CENTS DOWN TO 3 CENTS AND ALSO DOING AWAY WITH THE MINIMUM LEVY ADJUSTMENT WHICH WILL HELP MORE OF OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR SCHOOL AID, AND AGAIN, ASSISTING WITH PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. THIS WAS MY TOP PRIORITY AS WE WALKED INTO THE SESSION IN JANUARY. AND I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH NOT ONLY THE REVENUE COMMITTEE AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BUT EVERYBODY WHO HAD A HAND IN MAKING THAT HAPPEN. IT'S A TEAM EFFORT. IT DOES NOT HAPPEN BECAUSE ONE PERSON DID IT. IT HAPPENS BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME TOGETHER TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN. AND JUST TO PUT THAT IN CONTEXT ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT THIS IS, THINK BACK TO LAST YEAR. THERE WERE 26 DIFFERENT BILLS DROPPED INTO THE REVENUE COMMITTEE ON REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. THAT DEMONSTRATES THAT YOU ALL HEARD FROM YOUR CONSTITUENTS HOW IMPORTANT THIS ISSUE WAS AND THAT YOU WANTED TO TAKE STEPS TO ADDRESS IT, YET NOT ONE OF THOSE BILLS GOT ENOUGH CONSENSUS TO BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF COMMITTEE. BUT THIS YEAR WORKING TOGETHER, WE WERE ABLE TO CRAFT A BILL THAT NOT ONLY GOT OUT OF COMMITTEE, BUT GOT THROUGH THREE ROUNDS OF VOTING AND TO MY DESK FOR SIGNATURE, NOT ONLY FROM THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, BUT FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AS WELL. THAT IS QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT. ANOTHER ONE OF MY PRIORITIES WAS MAKING SURE THAT WE HAD THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE TO CONTINUE TO GROW OUR STATE. OUR THREE LARGEST INDUSTRIES ARE AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING, AND TOURISM, ALL WHICH REQUIRE THAT STRONG TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE ABLE TO GROW. AND THEN AGAIN, WORKING WITH YOU, THIS TIME THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AND THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, WE CRAFTED THE TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION ACT WHICH WILL HELP US CONTINUE THE GREAT WORK WE'RE ALREADY DOING. WE'LL BE ABLE TO ACCELERATE FOR YEARS TO COME THE WORK ON OUR EXPRESSWAY SYSTEM, CREATE A FUND SO THAT COUNTIES CAN APPLY TO THE STATE TO BE ABLE TO GET HELP REPAIRING THEIR BRIDGES, AND ALSO A FUND THAT IF A COMPANY WANTS TO EXPAND HERE AND MOVE HERE, THEY CAN APPLY TO THE STATE TO GET CONNECTED TO THE STATE INFRASTRUCTURE, LIKE BUILD A ROAD OR RAILROAD SPUR. THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO CONTINUE TO BUILD UPON OUR GREAT INFRASTRUCTURE ALREADY AND OVER THE COURSE OF THE LIFETIME OF THIS LAW, WE WILL INVEST ANOTHER \$450 MILLION TO ENSURE

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THAT WE HAVE THAT TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE. AND IN A STATE WHERE WE GROW THINGS AND WE MAKE THINGS, THAT'S VITAL. SO WE CAN LOOK BACK UPON THE WORK THAT WE'VE DONE TOGETHER IN THIS SESSION AND BE VERY PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE DOING THE PEOPLE'S WORK. ALSO, IF YOU LOOK AT THE THINGS WE'VE DONE IN THIS SESSION, WE'VE ASSISTED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS WELL TO THE TUNE OF UP TO \$121 MILLION TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS, NRDS, COUNTIES, AND CITIES TO ALLOW THEM TO HELP US GROW THIS GREAT STATE. YES, IF YOU LOOK BACK UPON THIS, WE'VE HAD A SUCCESSFUL SESSION AND I LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING UPON THE WORK WE'VE DONE HERE AS WE GO INTO NEXT YEAR AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK ON THE KEY ISSUES FOR OUR PEOPLE. HOW DO WE CONTINUE TO MAKE SURE WE FUND THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF GOVERNMENT AND CONTROL OUR EXPENSES? HOW DO WE MAKE SURE OUR SERVICES ARE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT? HOW DO WE CONTINUE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'VE GOT TAX RELIEF FOR OUR CITIZENS, AND ALL OF THE OTHER ISSUES THAT THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA WANT US TO WORK ON. WE HAVE SO MUCH OPPORTUNITY IN THIS STATE AND I KNOW WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN CONTINUE TO NOT ONLY HAVE THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS WE'VE ALREADY HAD, BUT BUILD UPON THOSE TO HAVE FURTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS DOWN THE ROAD. I'M EXCITED ABOUT OUR OPPORTUNITIES. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU. AND TOGETHER WE CAN GROW NEBRASKA, CREATE THOSE JOBS, KEEP OUR KIDS AND GRANDKIDS HERE, ATTRACT PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TO COME HERE AND MAKE NEBRASKA THEIR HOME. THE SKY IS THE LIMIT. I LOOK FORWARD TO IT. GOD BLESS THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA, GOD BLESS OUR GREAT STATE, AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THANK YOU. [LB958 LB959]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, GOVERNOR. WOULD THE ESCORT COMMITTEE PLEASE ASSIST THE GOVERNOR AS HE DEPARTS THE CHAMBER. THANK YOU.

GOVERNOR RICKETTS: I FORGOT A KEY PART OF THE SPEECH HERE. ALL OF YOU GET BACK IN YOUR SEATS. (LAUGHTER) I FORGOT THAT WE HAVE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY WHO ARE GOING TO BE TERM LIMITED OUT AT THE END OF THIS SESSION. (LAUGHTER) AND SO I'M GOING TO EXERCISE...THIS IS PROBABLY NOT IN THE ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, BUT I'M GOING TO EXERCISE SOME GUBERNATORIAL PRIVILEGE HERE AND RECOGNIZE THE SENATORS WHO ARE GOING TO BE TERM LIMITED OUT AT THE END OF THE SESSION WHO HAVE DEDICATED SO MUCH OF THEIR LIVES TO SERVING THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA. I REALLY APOLOGIZE FOR MISSING THIS, BUT I DO WANT TO COME BACK AND RECOGNIZE THOSE FOLKS WHO WILL BE TERM LIMITED OUT HERE AT THE END

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OF THIS YEAR. SO PLEASE, CAN WE GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THEM AS I CALL OUT THEIR NAME STARTING WITH SENATOR DAVE BLOOMFIELD, SENATOR KATHY CAMPBELL, SENATOR COLBY COASH, SENATOR TANYA COOK, SENATOR MIKE GLOOR, SENATOR KEN HAAR, SENATOR HEATH MELLO, SENATOR BEAU McCOY, SENATOR KEN SCHILZ, SENATOR KATE SULLIVAN, AND OF COURSE, THE ELECTED LEADER OF THIS BODY, SPEAKER GALEN HADLEY. AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR GIVING ME A MULLIGAN THERE (LAUGHTER) ON FORGETTING PART OF MY SPEECH. BUT I APPRECIATE THE WORK THAT EVERYBODY HAS DONE, AND OF COURSE, ALL THE FOLKS WHO WILL BE TERM LIMITED OUT HAVE DONE SUCH A WONDERFUL EFFORT IN SERVING THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA. I WOULD BE HUGELY REMISS IF I DIDN'T THANK THEM. SO THANK YOU ALL VERY, VERY MUCH AND WE'LL TRY THIS AGAIN.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: NOTE THAT THE ESCORT COMMITTEE HAS RETURNED TO THE CHAMBER. (GAVEL) MEMBERS, PLEASE COME TO ORDER. SPEAKER HADLEY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED FOR SOME REMARKS.

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, COLLEAGUES, I KNOW YOU'RE SITTING THERE THINKING, HASN'T HE BEEN TERM LIMITED OUT YET? ISN'T HE...WHAT IS HE SPEAKING FOR? WHAT IS GOING ON AT THIS POINT IN TIME? WELL, I DO WANT TO MAKE A FEW CLOSING REMARKS. YOU KNOW, THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION IS BASICALLY NOW COMPLETE. IT'S BEEN A VERY QUICK 60 WORKING DAYS, BUT WE, I DO BELIEVE, ACCOMPLISHED A LOT. ONE THING THAT WE HAVEN'T MENTIONED, WE CONTINUE TO WORK ON PRISON REFORM. WE PASSED BILLS TO CLEAN UP LB605, MAKE THE CHANGES FROM LB605, STILL WORKING WITH CSG IN GETTING THAT DONE. THE GOVERNOR TALKED ABOUT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF BOTH IN AGRICULTURE AND THROUGH THE WORK THROUGH THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE IN TEEOSA. WE ALSO HAVE THE ROADS FUNDING, I THINK THAT WAS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD. THE LEARNING COMMUNITY, TACKLED THAT PROBLEM. MAY NOT HAVE COME OUT EXACTLY THE WAY EVERYBODY WANTED, BUT WE DID TACKLE THE PROBLEM. I'D LIKE TO TALK JUST A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MY OBSERVATIONS ON THE CHALLENGES IN NEBRASKA'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. AND I CALL IT A PROCESS. WHEN I FIRST CAME DOWN HERE, I HAD SOME OF THE OLD HANDS SAY THE LEGISLATURE IS NOT AN EVENT. IT'S NOT AN EVENT OF PASSING A BILL, NOT AN EVENT OF PASSING A LAW. IT'S A PROCESS THAT YOU GO THROUGH. AND THE END RESULT MIGHT BE THAT PASSING OF A STATUTE, BUT YOU HAVE A PROCESS FROM INTRODUCTION, THROUGH STAGES ON THE FLOOR, DEBATE, AND I HOPE YOU WON'T FORGET THAT AS TIME GOES BY. I THINK ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAS HAPPENED THAT

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HAS CHANGED THE PROCESS IS FILIBUSTERS OR EXTENDED DEBATE. WE'VE TALKED A LOT ABOUT THIS. BUT I HAVE SOME NUMBERS THAT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN. THIS PAST YEAR, WE HAD, IN 2016, WE HAD 24 CLOTURE VOTES; THE YEAR BEFORE, WE HAD 13; 2014, WE HAD 9; 2013, WE HAD 6; 2012, WE HAD 3; 2011, WE HAD 3. WE ARE CHANGING AND THIS IS SOMETHING YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK ON DECIDE WHETHER YOU WANT TO CONTINUE IT OR HOW YOU WANT TO CONTINUE IT. EARLIER WE TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE PROCESS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THAT'S THE PROCESS THAT THEY BASICALLY USE THERE. I WAS DOING SOME READING THE OTHER DAY AND THEY TALKED A LOT ABOUT A 60-VOTE CONGRESS IN THE SENATE. AND I JUST WONDER IF WE'RE BECOMING A 33-VOTE LEGISLATURE AT THIS POINT IN TIME. I'M NOT TELLING YOU WHAT YOU SHOULD DO OR NOT DO, BUT IT'S JUST SOMETHING THAT YOU BE CONCERNED ABOUT. JUST OUT OF...FOR THE FACT THAT I THOUGHT WAS INTERESTING, BY CHANGING FROM EIGHT TO SIX HOURS FOR GENERAL FILE DEBATE, WE SAVED 16 HOURS. WE SAVED 2 OUT OF THE 60 DAYS OF DEBATE. SO WHOEVER IS SPEAKER, IS GOING TO WORK WITH YOU ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE THIS AND THE WAY YOU WANT TO DO IT. SOME OF THE ISSUES I THINK ARE ALSO OF A LITTLE CONCERN IS THE IMPACT OF TERM LIMITS. I THINK WE'RE SEEING MORE OF AN IDEA THAT I HAVE MY BILL, THE BILL I WANT, AND I'VE GOT TO GET IT DONE BECAUSE I'M GOING TO BE GONE BEFORE I GET THAT ACCOMPLISHED. SOMEONE REMINDED ME THAT CONCEALED CARRY, WHICH WE NOW HAVE IN NEBRASKA AS A LAW, TOOK TEN YEARS TO PASS. AND WE THINK NOW IF WE CAN'T GET IT THE FIRST YEAR, IT'S NOT GOOD. SO WE HAVE TO LEARN TO TAKE LITTLE BITES OF BILLS AS WE GO ALONG TO GET THE TOTAL PACKAGE. I THINK THERE'S SOME CONCERNS WITH SOME COMMITTEE ISSUES THAT I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ADDRESS. I THINK WE HAVE AN INEQUITY AMONG THE COMMITTEE. WE HAVE CERTAIN COMMITTEES THAT HAVE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF WORK AND OTHER COMMITTEES THAT DON'T HAVE QUITE AS MUCH. AND SO I JUST DON'T KNOW IF IT'S FAIR NOT ONLY TO THE MEMBERS THAT ARE ON THE COMMITTEES THAT HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF WORK, BUT ALSO TO THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE TO HEAR AN AWFUL LOT OF BILLS. AND, SO I THINK, YOU KNOW, IT'S SOMETHING YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO THINK ABOUT FOR COMMITTEE WORK. ALL IN ALL, I THINK IT'S BEEN A SUCCESSFUL SESSION. WE PASSED 216 BILLS. WE PASSED ANOTHER 66 BILLS VIA AMENDMENTS. THIS IS ABOUT HALF OF WHAT WE DID TWO YEARS AGO VIA AMENDMENTS. I TRIED HARD TO KEEP THE NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS DOWN SO WE COULD GET TO THOSE BILLS THAT WERE YOUR PRIORITY BILLS. I FEEL A LITTLE BAD BECAUSE WE ADDRESSED ALL BUT 4 OF THE 107 PRIORITY BILLS. WE DID NOT ADDRESS SENATOR KOLTERMAN'S LB901 TO CHANGE DENTAL ASSISTANTS AND LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS

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PROVISIONS; SENATOR DAVIS' LB994, A BILL TO CHANGE PROVISIONS UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AS APPLIED TO NONRESIDENT OWNERS; SENATOR FOX'S LB962, A BILL TO CHANGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRACTICE OF ACUPUNCTURE; AND SENATOR HILKEMANN'S BILL TO ADOPT THE INVESTIGATIONAL DRUG USE ACT. I REGRET VERY MUCH THE INABILITY TO MEET MY GOAL OF THIS BODY, ADDRESSING ALL THE PRIORITY BILLS ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE BY COMMITTEE. I WOULD REQUEST THAT NEXT YEAR THAT THE RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEES HOLD AN EARLY HEARING ON THESE BILLS WHEN THEY START THE PROCESS OVER AGAIN IF THEY ARE INTRODUCED NEXT YEAR SO THESE CAN BE HEARD EARLY ON THE FLOOR NEXT YEAR. AND IF THE BODY DEEMS THEY ARE IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE PASSED INTO LAW, THAT THEY DO IT. I HOPE THAT YOU DO THAT. THE STATUS OF OUR 107 PRIORITY BILLS INCLUDES 76 PRIORITY BILLS WERE PASSED INTO LAW, ONE OF THESE VIA A VETO OVERRIDE, 2 WERE VETOED WITH NO OVERRIDE, 4 BILLS ARE ON GENERAL FILE YET, 1 BILL ON GENERAL FILE WAS HELD BY THE PRINCIPAL INTRODUCER, 13 BILLS WERE DEBATED BUT FAILED TO MOVE FORWARD BEYOND GENERAL FILE, 3 FAILED TO MOVE FORWARD ON SELECT FILE, AND 1 FAILED TO MOVE BEYOND FINAL READING, 5 WERE HELD IN COMMITTEE, 1 WAS IPPed, AND 1 WAS IPPed DUE TO A FAILED PULL MOTION. I THINK ALL IN ALL, WE DID OUR JOBS THIS YEAR. I LIKE TO QUOTE THE CLERK WHO WITHOUT HIS HELP I'D HAVE NEVER MADE IT THROUGH THE YEAR, WE GET DONE WHAT WE HAVE TO GET DONE IN THIS BODY AND THEN WE GO HOME. I WANT TO THANK THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING GAVEL-TO-GAVEL COVERAGE OF OUR LEGISLATURE TO CITIZENS ACROSS THE STATE. I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE STAFF. AND IF THEY'RE HERE, AS I RECOGNIZE AND A GROUP, IF WE COULD GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE. FIRST, THE CLERK'S OFFICE: PATRICK O'DONNELL, CLERK; DICK BROWN, ASSISTANT CLERK; AND THE PEOPLE WHO SIT UP IN FRONT EVERY DAY AND THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THE OFFICE. ONE THING I LEARNED THAT I DIDN'T KNOW AND I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T KNOW, HAVE NO REASON TO KNOW, BUT LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR WHERE WE TRIED TO QUIT BY 8:00, YOU KNOW, THE CLERK'S OFFICE HAS ANYWHERE FROM AN HOUR TO AN HOUR AND A HALF OF WORK AFTER WE ADJOURN. SO WHEN WE WERE GOING TO 10:30 AND 11:00 AND 11:30 AT NIGHT, THEY WERE STAYING HERE FOR AN HOUR TO AN HOUR AND A HALF AFTERWARDS TO GET THE INFORMATION READY TO START THE DAY THE NEXT DAY. SO I TRULY...WE COULD NOT FUNCTION WITHOUT THAT OFFICE. ADDITIONALLY, THE CLERK'S OFFICE INCLUDES--AND I WOULD ASK THEM TO STAND AS I READ THEIR AREAS--THE BILL ROOM, THE TRANSCRIBERS, THE UNICAMERAL INFORMATION OFFICE, THE LEGISLATIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER, THE SERGEANT AT ARMS, AND THE

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LEGISLATIVE PAGES. IF THEY WOULD ALL PLEASE STAND. THE NEBRASKA STATE PATROL: CAPTAIN SEAN CARADORI, EXECUTIVE IN THE STATE CAPITOL PROTECTION DETAIL SUPERVISOR. LET'S GIVE A HAND TO THE NEBRASKA STATE PATROL. NEXT, THE FISCAL OFFICE: MIKE CALVERT, DIRECTOR; TOM BERGQUIST, DEPUTY DIRECTOR. I THINK THEY ARE HERE, LET'S GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE. THE REVISOR'S OFFICE, THE ONES THAT ARE HERE LATE AT NIGHT ALSO, REVISING BILLS AND GETTING THEM READY: JOANNE PEPPERL, REVISOR OF STATUTES, AND MARCIA McCLURG, ASSISTANT. THE LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTING AND BUDGET OFFICE: DIANE NICKOLITE, BUSINESS MANAGER. THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DIVISION: NANCY CYR, DIRECTOR. THE LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION: MARTHA CARTER, AUDITOR. THE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE: MARSHALL LUX, OMBUDSMAN. THE COMMITTEE STAFF AND INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATURE STAFF, IF THEY'RE HERE, IF THEY WOULD PLEASE STAND. WE COULD NOT GET DONE WHAT WE DO WITHOUT THE DEDICATED STAFF THAT WE HAVE. I TALKED EARLIER ABOUT TERM LIMITS. THANK GOODNESS WE HAVE STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH THAT THEY CAN TELL US THIS IS WHAT MIGHT WORK, THIS IS WHAT MIGHT NOT WORK. THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN DO. YOU KNOW, AND REALLY THEY'RE SUPER PEOPLE. SO LET'S GIVE THE ENTIRE STAFF ONE MORE ROUND. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I APPRECIATE ALL THE WORK. THANK YOU. [LB605 LB901 LB994 LB962]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MR. SPEAKER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR PURPOSES OF A PRESENTATION OF AN AWARD.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE FIRST AWARD I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT IS THE AWARD TO OUR PRESIDING OFFICER, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. IT'S KIND OF A THANKLESS JOB AT TIMES TO SIT UP THERE AND LISTEN TO THE DEBATE AND LISTEN TO WHAT IS GOING ON OUT HERE AND ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'VE HAD A DISTINGUISHED CAREER LIKE OUR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR HAS HAD WHERE HE HAS BEEN ON THIS SIDE OF THE AISLE, BEING A PART OF THAT DEBATE. BUT I DO APPRECIATE ALL THE HELP THAT HE HAS GIVEN US THIS LAST TWO YEARS, AND I WISH HIM THE VERY BEST AND WE'RE PRESENTING HIM WITH A PLAQUE FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS. SENATOR MURANTE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

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SENATOR MURANTE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS, GOOD AFTERNOON. I GET TO RISE TODAY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF A SERVICE AWARD FOR THE UNSUNG HERO OF THE NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE, THE MEMBER WITHOUT WHOM NOTHING WOULD EVER ADVANCE TO FINAL READING. OUR BILLS WOULD BE STUCK IN PERPETUITY ON SELECT FILE WITHOUT ANYONE OFFERING A MOTION TO ADVANCE TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. THE MAN WHO HAS TO SIT HERE ON THE FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATURE, ON SELECT FILE DEBATE AFTER SELECT FILE DEBATE, FILIBUSTER AFTER FILIBUSTER WHEN WE ALL GO TO OUR OFFICES, HE'S STUCK ON THE FLOOR BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO POP UP AND MAKE THAT CRITICAL MOTION TO ADVANCE THE BILL TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. SENATOR HANSEN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. YOU DID A HECK OF A JOB. YOU EXCEEDED EVEN THE TALENT LEVEL OF SENATOR LARSON. AND I HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS BRIEFCASE IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SERVICE AS E&R CHAIR. THANK YOU, SENATOR HANSEN.

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COME UP.

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: COLLEAGUES, I COULD MAKE THIS A LOT EASIER ON YOU IF I JUST INTRODUCED THE SINE DIE MOTION AT THIS POINT (LAUGHTER), BUT I'M NOT GOING TO. I HAVE A LIST OF PEOPLE TO THANK, A LOT OF THEM THE SPEAKER ALREADY COVERED BUT I WANT TO START WITH GOD, THE GIVER OF ALL LIFE AND THE GIVER OF THE LAWS THAT WE NEED TO FOLLOW MORE THAN WE DO, THAT WE REGULARLY TRY TO AMEND DOWN HERE. SO THANK GOD FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO SERVE THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. SECONDLY, AND NEARLY AS IMPORTANT, I WANT TO THANK MY LOVELY WIFE, DEE, WHO SITS UP IN THE NORTH BALCONY. WOULD YOU STAND UP A MINUTE, PLEASE, DEAR? THANK YOU. WITHOUT HER I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T BE HERE. I WANT TO THANK THE PEOPLE OF DISTRICT 17, THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA, MY STAFF. I'VE ONLY HAD THREE STAFF MEMBERS IN THE SIX YEARS I HAVE BEEN HERE. I STARTED OFF WITH LINDA SCHMIDT AND BEVERLY NEEL. LINDA SCHMIDT WAS MY LA; BEVERLY NEEL WAS AND STILL IS MY AA. SHE'S BEEN WITH ME THE WHOLE TIME AND I WANT TO THANK HER AND RECOGNIZE HER. AND JESSICA SHELburn HAS BEEN MY LA FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS. ANY OF YOU PEOPLE THAT MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR STAFF, I RECOMMEND EITHER ONE OF THEM HIGHLY; THEY DO A SUPER JOB. AND PEOPLE THAT THE SPEAKER ALREADY COVERED, THE RED COATS, THE HIGHWAY PATROL, PATRICK, DICK, AND ALL OF THE STAFF UP HERE, WITHIN THE CHAMBER AND THROUGHOUT THE CAPITOL,

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MY COLLEAGUES, AND YES, EVEN THE LOBBYISTS I WANT TO THANK. I TOOK SOME POLITICAL JABS FOR SAYING THAT LOBBYISTS AREN'T NECESSARILY BAD PEOPLE. I SEE SOME THINGS IN THE PAPER THAT SAID I WAS WAY OUT OF LINE BY SAYING THAT BECAUSE THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF LIARS AND THIEVES OUT THERE TRYING TO INFLUENCE US AND THAT THEY'RE NOT A RELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION. WELL, I REPUDIATE WHAT WAS IN THE PAPER. THEY ARE A VALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION. GET TO KNOW THEM. YOU WILL DECIDE WHICH ONES YOU CAN TRUST. THERE ARE SOME YOU CAN; THERE ARE SOME YOU HAVE TO WATCH FOR. AND BY NOW MOST OF YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE. I TOLD SENATOR CHAMBERS HAD HE BEEN UP HERE TO REQUEST A SONG I WOULD HAVE DONE ONE, BUT SEEING AS HOW HE IS NOT HERE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SUFFER THROUGH THAT. (LAUGHTER) I DO HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING I WANT TO READ INTO THE RECORD. AND I THINK IT IS A PATHWAY FOR THOSE WHO COME BEHIND ME, THE NEWLY ELECTED THAT WILL BE HERE NEXT YEAR, AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WILL BE HERE THAT ARE IN THE BODY NOW. SO GIVE THIS A LITTLE CONSIDERATION AS YOU LOOK AHEAD. COURAGE, BROTHER, DO NOT STUMBLE, THOUGH THY PATH IS DARK AS NIGHT; THERE IS A STAR TO GUIDE THE HUMBLE: TRUST IN GOD AND DO THE RIGHT. LET THE ROAD BE LONG AND DREARY AND ITS ENDING OUT OF SIGHT, FOOT IT BRAVELY; STRONG OR WEARY, TRUST IN GOD, AND DO THE RIGHT. PERISH POLICY AND CUNNING, PERISH ALL THAT FEAR THE LIGHT! WHETHER LOSING, WHETHER WINNING, TRUST IN GOD, AND DO THE RIGHT. TRUST NO PARTY, TRUST NO FACTION; TRUST NO LEADERS IN THE FIGHT; BUT IN EVERY WORD AND ACTION, TRUST IN GOD, AND DO THE RIGHT. TRUST NO FORMS OF GUILTY PASSION-- FIENDS CAN LOOK LIKE ANGELS BRIGHT; TRUST NO CUSTOM, SCHOOL OR FASHION: TRUST IN GOD, AND DO THE RIGHT. SOME WILL HATE THEE, SOME WILL LOVE THEE, SOME WILL FLATTER, SOME WILL SLIGHT; TURN FROM MAN AND LOOK ABOVE THEE: TRUST IN GOD AND DO THE RIGHT. SIMPLE RULES AND SAFEST GUIDING, INWARD PEACE AND INWARD MIGHT, STAR UPON OUR PATH ABIDING, TRUST IN GOD AND DO THE RIGHT. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES; THANK YOU, DISTRICT 17; THANK YOU, NEBRASKA, AND GOOD-BYE.

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CAMPBELL, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COME FORWARD.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I DO WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I HAVE ONE COMPLAINT OVER THE EIGHT YEARS. I HAVE GROWN SHORTER. (LAUGHTER) I USED TO TOWER ABOVE THIS. SENATOR BRASCH, BE CAREFUL. YOU'VE GOT A COUPLE YEARS TO GO. YOU KNOW, WHEN WE COME INTO THIS BODY, EVERY SENATOR WHO SERVED AND WILL SERVE, WE BRING

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OUR LIFE EXPERIENCES. AND I HAVE TALKED ABOUT SOME OF THOSE, CERTAINLY ON MY SPEECHES ON THE FLOOR, AND ONE OF THEM WAS AS A HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER. AND WHEN I USED TO TEACH A POETRY UNIT, I WOULD OFTEN START WITH SONGS BECAUSE I FOUND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COULD UNDERSTAND THAT A LOT BETTER BEFORE JUMPING INTO THEIR FAVORITE BYRON POEM. AND THIS IS GOING TO DATE ME, BUT ONE OF MY FAVORITE SONGS WAS WRITTEN BY PAUL SIMON ON SIMON AND GARFUNKEL ALBUM, "BOOKENDS." AND THAT SONG "BOOKENDS" HAS BEEN A FAVORITE OF MINE. IT'S ONE OF THEIR SHORTEST EVER AND THE SONG GOES, "LONG AGO IT MUST BE/ I HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH/ PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES/ THEY'RE ALL THAT'S LEFT YOU." AND I BEGAN TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WOULD I SEE IN THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MY EIGHT YEARS IN THE LEGISLATURE? AND I DECIDED I WOULDN'T SEE VERY MANY NUMBERS, MAYBE LR37, LB599, 5 CHILD WELFARE BILLS. BUT FOR A SENATOR THAT COULD NEVER REMEMBER HER OWN BILLS' NUMBERS, NUMBERS REALLY ARE NOT THAT IMPORTANT. BUT THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED GET ME HERE AND SUSTAIN MY WORK HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE ARE PROBABLY WHO'S GOING TO BE IN THAT PHOTOGRAPH. THE FIRST OF WHICH IS MY FAMILY, WHO HAS SUSTAINED 24 YEARS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, 6 ELECTIONS. AND DICK IS SITTING IN THE BACK, MY HUSBAND, RAISING HIS HAND. YOU HAVE TO STAND UP, DICK. HE'S BEEN MY BEST POLITICAL ADVISOR AND MY HUSBAND FOR 47 YEARS. AND THEN OUR SON ANDY. YES, THERE IS AN ANDREW CAMPBELL AND I WANT TO CLARIFY THE RECORD BECAUSE WE RECEIVED CALLS IN MY OFFICE AFTER SENATOR HOWARD'S GREAT TRIBUTE. AND PEOPLE WERE WORRIED ABOUT ANDY CAMPBELL. AND TO MY KNOWLEDGE, ANDY HAS NEVER BEEN IN ANY STATE AGENCY NOR DO I THINK ANY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY. BUT HE'S ALLOWED ME TO USE HIS NAME SO THAT I COULD HAVE AN EXAMPLE TO PERSONALIZE THE ISSUES, MANY OF THE ISSUES THAT CAME BEFORE THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE. AND THEN WE HAVE OUR DAUGHTER CARRIE, HER HUSBAND JEFF, AND OUR GRANDSON WILL; AND WE ARE LEAVING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS. WE HAVE IT ALL PACKED BECAUSE TOMORROW MORNING CARRIE GIVES BIRTH TO HER SECOND CHILD. AND WE FOUND OUT WHAT A VILLAGE THE LEGISLATURE AND ALL THE DIVISIONS ARE AND WHAT A FAMILY WHEN CARRIE HAD A VERY SERIOUS ILLNESS IN 2014 AND YOU ALL JUST...I MEAN, PRAYERS AND CONCERNS. PEOPLE I DIDN'T KNOW WOULD COME FORWARD AND TALK TO US. THE NEXT GROUP OF PEOPLE, WELL, THEY KEEP ME FOCUSED. I TOLD THEM YESTERDAY THEY KEEP ME SANE, BUT THEY ARE THE STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN WITH ME. AND I'M GOING TO QUICKLY LOOK DOWN AT MY NOTES SO I DON'T FORGET ANYBODY: CLAUDIA, DIANE, MICHELLE, DENISE, BRENNEN, JOSELYN, ELICE, AND OUR HONORARY STAFF MEMBER, LIZ, WHO IS SITTING WAY IN THE

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BACK. WE HOLD MORNING STAFF MEETINGS WHEN WE CAN, WHICH IS REALLY KIND OF A JOKE BECAUSE WE TRY TO TALK ABOUT WHAT THE POLITICS OF THE DAY IS. AND WE HAVE A SENATOR ACROSS THE HALL FROM US, SENATOR SCHEER, WHO IS ALWAYS LATE TO MORNING STAFF MEETINGS I MUST ADMIT. I, TOO, WANT TO THANK ALL OF THE LEGISLATIVE DIVISIONS AND TELL YOU A VERY QUICK STORY WHICH I'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT MY FIRST YEAR IN THE LEGISLATURE AND ONE OF THE FIRST FINAL READINGS. AND I WAS, YOU KNOW, BUSY TALKING TO THE STAFF, WHAT ARE WE DOING? I NEED THAT PAPER. AND ALL OF A SUDDEN PATRICK APPEARED AT MY DESK--FEAR, I MEAN, IMMEDIATELY. HE LEANED OVER AND SAID, YOU MIGHT WANT TO VOTE ON YOUR OWN BILL. (LAUGHTER) THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE HAD PATRICK APPEAR BEFORE YOUR DESK, YOU KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT. I, TOO, WANT TO THANK ALL OF THE ADVOCATES WHO HAVE BEEN WITH ME FOR THESE YEARS AND THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE STOOD BEHIND THE GLASS. THEY CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN HELPFUL. AND ESPECIALLY I WANT TO THANK THE PEOPLE OF THE 25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT WHO HAVE STOOD BY ME THROUGH SOME VERY TOUGH ISSUES AND ALWAYS SAID, WE MAY NOT AGREE WITH YOU BUT WE WILL SUPPORT YOU. MY COLLEAGUES, OH, MY GOSH, MY CLASSMATES PARTICULARLY. I CALL MANY OF YOU IN MY CLASS MY POLICY PARTNERS. AND I WORKED ON SO MANY BILLS WITH MY CLASSMATES THAT TO NAME THEM ALL WOULD BE TOUGH, BUT I DO WANT TO SINGLE OUT AND REMEMBER TODAY SENATOR NORDQUIST WHO SAT BEHIND ME AND HE WOULD ALWAYS SAY, YOU OWE ME THIS VOTE. (LAUGHTER) I OWED SENATOR NORDQUIST A LOT OF VOTES, LET'S PUT IT THAT WAY. THE OTHER PERSON I WANT TO MENTION, AND SHE HAS BEEN INTRODUCED, BUT I'M GOING TO ASK HER TO STAND AGAIN, IS KATHY UTTER. KATHY, ARE YOU IN THE BACK THERE? KATHY'S HUSBAND DENNIS WAS A MEMBER OF OUR CLASS. AND IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU REMEMBER KATHY'S FIRST NAME BECAUSE SENATOR UTTER USED TO CALL ME THE OTHER KATHY IN HIS LIFE. AND EVERY MORNING SOMETIME, HE'D COME UP OR I'D GO UP TO HIM AND WE'D GIVE EACH OTHER A HUG EVERY SINGLE DAY AND I MISS HIM DEARLY. AND SO IN THE PHOTOGRAPH THAT I HAVE OF THE EIGHT YEARS ARE REALLY THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT ONE FORGES. AND IT IS THOSE RELATIONSHIPS THAT SUSTAIN THE LEGACY OF THIS UNIQUE UNICAMERAL INSTITUTION. SPEAKER MIKE FLOOD USED TO SAY TO ME, OKAY, WHICH DID YOU ENJOY MOST, BEING A COUNTY COMMISSIONER OR BEING A STATE SENATOR? AND I'D ALWAYS ANSWER HIM, WELL, YOU KNOW, ON A BOARD OF FIVE I ONLY HAD TO CONVINCE TWO OTHER PEOPLE. WHEN I CAME TO THE LEGISLATURE, I HAD TO FIND 24 OTHER PEOPLE; AND MANY TIMES, AS YOU WELL KNOW, AFTER FOUR YEARS THAT SOMETIMES THOSE 24 ARE PRETTY HARD TO COME BY. BUT I CAN HONESTLY ANSWER SPEAKER FLOOD NOW THAT

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SERVING AS A STATE SENATOR HAS BEEN TRULY AN UNFORGIVABLE OR UNFORGETTABLE...NOW WAIT, WAIT, WAIT--DON'T GO THERE--AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE, ONE I WILL NOT FORGET. AND SO I WILL ALWAYS HAVE THIS PHOTOGRAPH WITH ME FOREVER.

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR COASH, IF YOU WOULD COME FORWARD.

SENATOR COASH: WELL, THANK YOU, SPEAKER HADLEY; AND FIRST OF ALL, THANKS FOR BEATING ME FOR SPEAKER TWO YEARS AGO. THAT WAS THE RIGHT CALL. SO ALMOST NINE YEARS AGO, I ASKED FOR THIS JOB. AND I ASKED FOR THIS JOB TO MAKE \$12,000 A YEAR, MAKE SOME PEOPLE HAPPY, MAKE OTHERS ANGRY, SPEND LONG DAYS AND WEEKS AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY. YOU SIT THROUGH...WELL, I'M ON JUDICIARY SO I SAT THROUGH ENDLESS HEARINGS. SOMETIMES YOU GOT BERATED FROM FORCES WITHIN AND FORCES OUTSIDE OF THE BODY AND GET TO THAT IN A MOMENT, BUT, ONE OF...I WENT HOME FREQUENTLY AND WOULD ASK MYSELF, MY WIFE, WHY WOULD I WANT THIS JOB? AND I'VE ASKED THAT QUESTION MANY TIMES OVER THE EIGHT YEARS, BUT I DO HAVE AN ANSWER. WHO WOULD WANT THIS JOB? WELL, THOSE WHO SEEK THIS JOB ARE SOME OF THE BEST PEOPLE NEBRASKA HAS TO OFFER. AND I COUNT IT AMONG THE GREATEST PRIVILEGES TO SERVE ALONG SUCH GREAT PEOPLE FOR WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS ALONE, WE ALL KNOW THAT. WE DON'T DO THIS WITHOUT THE EXPERIENCE AND THE DEDICATION OF ALL WHO WORK HERE AND THAT'S TRULY UNPARALLELED, THE WORK THAT GOES ON IN THIS BUILDING. AND I'VE CERTAINLY BEEN BLESSED WITH GREAT SUPPORT IN MY TIME HERE, FROM KATIE AND SHEILA, WHO LEARNED WITH ME IN MY FIRST YEARS; AND DAVID AND SAM WHO HAVE GOT ME THROUGH TO THE END. THIS PLACE IS CERTAINLY SPECIAL AND IT'S UNIQUE, BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY CHANGE MUCH. POLICY DISCUSSIONS WILL CARRY ON AS THEY ALWAYS HAVE. SO THIS PLACE IS ABOUT THE SAME AS I CAME INTO IT, AND IT WILL BE THE SAME WHEN I LEAVE. BUT I AM DIFFERENT FROM MY SERVICE HERE. I'M A DIFFERENT MAN BEFORE YOU THAN THE ONE THAT CAME HERE EIGHT YEARS AGO. I CAME HERE IN MY EARLY 30s WITH A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL WIFE; AND NOW I LEAVE IN MY 40s, STILL WITH A YOUNG AND EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL WIFE AND NOW A YOUNG SON. THEY ARE BACK THERE. SO THIS CHAMBER DOES CHANGE YOU. IT IS A TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE TO SERVE ALL NEBRASKA AND ITS PEOPLE. AND BEING THE VOICE OF SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR STATE HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY REWARDING FOR ME AND I WILL CERTAINLY MISS THAT ADVOCACY AND ALL OF THOSE THAT I WORKED WITH ON THOSE EFFORTS. IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE THE DISTRICT, DISTRICT 27 RIGHT HERE IN LINCOLN, AND I

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THANK THEM FOR THEIR TRUST IN ME. WE OFTEN HEAR--AND I'VE SAID IT AND IT FEELS STRANGE WHEN I SAY IT--BUT WE OFTEN HERE REFER TO OURSELVES IN THIS ROOM AS "THE BODY." WE ALWAYS SAY "THE BODY." AND THAT TERM HAS CONFUSED ME FOR YEARS. EVEN AS I SAID IT, IT WAS CONFUSING. BUT I HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND WHY WE USE THAT TERM. WE USE THAT TERM BECAUSE WE HAVE ALL THE PARTS HERE THAT REPRESENT A BODY. WE HAVE BIG HEARTS, WE HAVE SMART HEADS, WE HAVE HARDWORKING HANDS, RUNNING LEGS, AND EVEN A FEW...WELL, IT TAKES ALL PARTS. (LAUGHTER) AND I WAS GRATEFUL TO DO MY PART AND TO WORK WITH ALL OF YOU. SO AS MANY OF YOU WHO ARE EXITING THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN ASKED, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AND I'LL ANSWER THAT IN A MOMENT. FOR ME, I WILL GO A SHORT DISTANCE HOME TO MY WIFE RHONDA AND SON COLE, BOTH OF WHOM GAVE ME THE STRENGTH I NEEDED TO SERVE. SO THANK YOU BOTH. AND SPEAKING OF FAMILY, I HAVE BEEN ASKED MANY TIMES, AS I SAID, WHAT I'LL DO NEXT. SO HERE IT IS. COLE, WE'RE GOING TO DISNEY WORLD. THANK YOU. GOOD-BYE.

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR COOK, FRONT AND CENTER.

SENATOR COOK: GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE. I'D LIKE TO START OUT BY THANKING MY FRIENDS AND CONSTITUENTS IN LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13. I'VE OFTEN SAID DURING FLOOR DEBATE IN HERE THAT EVERYBODY LIVES IN LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13--PEOPLE WHO ARE OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL STRIPES THAN MY OWN, A FULL MOSAIC OF COLOR AND ETHNICITY; PEOPLE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES CONSERVATIVES, PROGRESSIVES, FLAMING LIBERALS, AND I HAVE BEEN HONORED TO REPRESENT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM, NOT PERFECTLY BUT WITH MY WHOLE HEART SINCE I HAVE BEEN HERE THE EIGHT YEARS. SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST AND ENCOURAGEMENT, YOUR ONGOING INPUT, SHALL WE CALL IT, AND YOUR SUPPORT. I WORKED TO DRILL DOWN TO WHERE YOU REALLY LIVED ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS AND TO HAVE THE WORK THAT WE DID HERE REFLECT THAT. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EACH OF MY PERSONAL STAFF MEMBERS: SALLY, LUCAS, JENA, CHRISTINA AND SUSAN. I SIMPLY CANNOT IMAGINE HAVING UNDERTAKEN THIS ROLE WITH ANY DEGREE OF SUCCESS WITHOUT YOU. FROM PROVIDING IN-DEPTH POLICY ANALYSIS AND CONSTITUENT CONTACT, TO CONFIRMING TO ME THAT TODAY IS WEDNESDAY, RIGHT? HELPING WITH THAT, THANK YOU FOR STEADYING THE FIRE HOSE SO THAT I COULD TAKE A DRINK. I'D LIKE TO THANK THE CLERK AND EACH OF OUR PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR KEEPING TRACK OF WHAT WE THOUGHT WE WERE DOING ON BEHALF OF THE HISTORIC RECORD AND THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THE GREAT STATE OF NEBRASKA--PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE. I WOULD

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LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE PAGES. YOU GUYS, I AM FANTASIZING ABOUT HAVING A LITTLE BLUE BUTTON IN MY APARTMENT. WHAT WOULD THAT BE LIKE? I'M GOING TO MISS YOU. TO MY COLLEAGUES: IN SHORT, YOU HAVE BROADENED MY PERSPECTIVE. I AM A SHAMELESS CITY GIRL, I INSIST UPON IT. I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE HERE IN THE GREAT STATE OF NEBRASKA AND HAVE NOT HAD DIRECT WORK WITHIN THE AG INDUSTRY. BUT WITH YOUR HELP AND YOUR PATIENCE, YOU PUT WATER, WIND ENERGY, AND EVEN TRAPPING IN THE DITCH ON MY RADAR. THANK YOU. MY HOPE IS THAT YOU'VE GAINED A CERTAIN PERSPECTIVE FROM MY SERVICE HERE TOO. I'M A PROUD NEBRASKAN AND MY HOPE IS THAT WE CAN STAY IN TOUCH AND THAT YOU WILL BE OPEN TO INCLUDING THE PERSPECTIVES OF YOUR URBAN COLLEAGUES TO COME. THANK YOU. FINALLY, I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR THE SUPPORT AND INSPIRATION OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS LIKE FAMILY. I HAVE THE BEST PARENTS IN THE WORLD. THEY GAVE ME EVERY KEY TO SUCCESS, A STRONG FAITH FOUNDATION, SECURITY IN AND LOVE FOR MY IDENTITY AND THE CONFIDENCE TO PURSUE MY DREAMS. FRIENDS, YOU WERE ALL IN FROM THE BEGINNING. YOU GENEROUSLY GAVE YOUR TIME, TALENT, AND TITHE TOWARDS THIS GREAT ADVENTURE. I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL. LET'S PLAN THE NEXT ONE. THANK YOU.

SPEAKER HADLEY: IF SENATOR GLOOR WOULD COME FORWARD.

SENATOR GLOOR: HI. I MADE A LOT OF SPEECHES AND DONE A LOT OF INTERVIEWS THE PAST THREE OR FOUR WEEKS. AND I DON'T KNOW HOW EFFECTIVE ANY OF THOSE WERE BUT INCLUDED IN THOSE WERE MARRIAGE VOWS AND I NAILED THAT SUCKER, FOLKS. THANK YOU, MARIE. I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE CONSTITUENTS OF DISTRICT 35 AND I HAVE TO COME CLEAN TO THEM AND TO YOU AND TO THE CITIZENS OF NEBRASKA. I HAVE HELD A DARK SECRET FOR THE FULL EIGHT YEARS THAT RELATES TO THE LEGISLATURE AND LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. I WAS A BOYS' STATER. AND THOSE OF YOU WHO KNOW ANYTHING OR SERVED IN BOYS' STATE, ABOUT BOYS' STATE OR GIRLS' STATE KNOW THAT THEY GIVE YOU A BOOK ON STATE GOVERNMENT AND THERE IS A TEST AT THE END OF YOUR TIME IN STATE GOVERNMENT. AND, OF COURSE, I'M A HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR, GOING TO BE A SENIOR. I'VE GOT TWO JOBS. I'M INVOLVED IN ALL KINDS OF THINGS THAT A 17-YEAR-OLD WOULD BE INVOLVED IN. AND I THINK I CRACKED THAT BOOK MAYBE TWO TIMES IN PREPARATION FOR COMING TO BOYS' STATE. I MAY HAVE SET A RECORD FOR THE LOWEST SCORE IN THAT STATE GOVERNMENT TEST. THAT WON'T SURPRISE SOME OF YOU. BUT IT HAS BEEN A JOY SERVING. WE ALSO HAD A COLUMN WRITTEN BY MIKE KELLY THAT WAS A BIT OF A SURPRISE TO US. WHAT HE SAID ABOUT MARIE WAS

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ALL TRUE, MOST OF WHAT HE SAID ABOUT ME WAS TRUE. BUT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I DID SAY THAT I WOULD REPEAT HERE IS, I'M NOT SURE WHAT I GAVE TO THE LEGISLATURE, TO MY DISTRICT, TO THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. HISTORY WILL MAKE THAT DETERMINATION. BUT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I GOT WAS THE FACT THAT I HAD TO START OVER AGAIN. FORGET THE FACT THAT I WAS A HOSPITAL CEO, FORGET THE EXACT THAT I HAD EMPLOYEES WHO CONSIDERED ME THE BIG KAHUNA, EL JEFE. I HAD TO COME DOWN HERE AND EARN MY STRIPES ALL OVER AGAIN AND THAT WAS VERY GOOD FOR ME. I THINK THAT WOULD BE VERY GOOD FOR ANYONE, WHETHER IT'S IN YOUR CAREER, WHETHER IT'S IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE WITH THE THINGS THAT YOU VOLUNTEER. IT IS IMPORTANT, I NOW REALIZE, TO GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE, WHATEVER IT IS, AND EXPLORE SOMETHING NEW, DO SOMETHING THAT IS FOREIGN AND UNFAMILIAR TO YOU. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE THAT PART OF IT ALONE HAS BEEN FOR ME. I HAVE THANK-YOUS, MENTORSHIP: MIKE FLOOD PLUCKED ME FROM THE BODY MY THIRD YEAR HERE AND PUT ME IN THE PULPIT OR MAYBE THAT'S THE LECTERN--THIS PROBABLY IS THE PULPIT--TO BE THE PRESIDING OFFICER A LOT. IN FACT, I THINK BETWEEN COLBY AND I, OUR THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR HERE, PROBABLY FILLED IN AS PRESIDENT 80 OR 90 PERCENT OF THE HOURS THAT WE WERE IN SESSION THOSE TWO TERMS. THAT WAS A BIG HELP. AND OF COURSE THE MENTORSHIP THAT I GOT FROM PATRICK AND DICK AND CAROL AND VICKI AND DIANA UP HERE HELPED ME SUCCEED AND GET A BETTER APPRECIATION FOR THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. I'VE GOT TO SAY THIS ABOUT PATRICK. I DOUBT ANYONE WILL ARGUE THE POINT WITH ME. BELLS RING, HE GETS PEOPLE IN THEIR SEATS, HE GETS US EDUCATED, HE KEEPS US IN LINE, HE KEEPS THINGS MOVING FORWARD. SOMEDAY IN A PAST LIFE, HE WAS A JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL. HE HAD TO HAVE BEEN. (LAUGHTER) THANKS TO MY STAFF OVER THE YEARS: LANA AND ANNE AND JAN AND BILL AND CURRENTLY KATIE AND KRISSA AND KAY AND MARY JANE AND ESPECIALLY MARGARET BUCK. MARGARET WAS MY LA FOR EIGHT YEARS AND SHE SERVED MY DISTRICT FOR 15 AND THAT IS REMARKABLE AND SHE HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP TO ME AND A BIG HELP TO MY DISTRICT. FINALLY, I WOULD TELL YOU THAT AS I COMMENTED, I THINK HISTORY WILL PROBABLY JUDGE OUR EFFECTIVENESS OVERALL. AND I HOPE AND THINK IT WILL JUDGE US FAIRLY WHEN IT COMES TO HISTORY. BUT I BELIEVE THESE THOUGHTS, AS I THOUGHT ABOUT MY COMMENTS TO THIS BODY FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE COMING BACK, DON'T SPEND A LOT OF TIME THINKING ABOUT POLICY IN TERMS OF THE WAY IT USED TO BE BECAUSE WE KNOW AND IT HAS BEEN PROVEN SCIENTIFICALLY WHEN WE LOOK BACK, WE LOOK THROUGH ROSE-COLORED GLASSES. WE FORGET HOW DIFFICULT TIMES WERE AND REMEMBER ALL THE THINGS WE ENJOYED. THAT'S A BAD WAY TO MAKE POLICY, TO THINK OF THE

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WORLD THE WAY WE IMAGINED IT OR DO IMAGINE IT. THINK OF THIS STATE, THINK OF YOUR DISTRICT, THINK OF THIS COUNTRY AS YOU VISION IT SHOULD BE AND MAKE POLICY DECISIONS ACCORDING TO YOUR VISION AND YOUR IMAGINATION OF WHAT YOU WANT THIS STATE TO BE. AND KEEPING THAT IN MIND, I THINK THIS BODY WILL CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE MORE OUTSTANDING LEGISLATURES IN THE UNITED STATES. THANK YOU FOR THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY, FRIENDS, BYE-BYE.

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR KEN HAAR, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COME FORWARD. THEN I'M GOING TO LIMIT YOU TO FIVE MINUTES.

SENATOR HAAR: WELL, YOU WOULD EXPECT NO LESS FROM ME SO I JUST HAD TO DO THAT. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKING ME WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WHEN THIS IS OVER AND I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO BE WHEN I GROW UP, SO IT IS A REAL PROBLEM. AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S SORT OF CONFUSED THAT, AND I'VE TAKEN THE LEGISLATURE WITH A LOT OF SMILES. YOU HAVE TO, OTHERWISE IT GETS BITTER AT TIMES. AND I KIND OF MADE A LIST OF SOME OF THE LABELS THAT HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED TO VARIOUS PEOPLE HERE: LEFT, RIGHT, CENTER, COMPASSIONATE, COLD-HEARTED, PROGRESSIVE--I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE OPPOSITE OF PROGRESSIVE IS--REAL AMERICAN AND NOT SO GOOD AMERICAN, A DEMOCRAT, A PSEUDO DEMOCRAT, ETCETERA, ETCETERA. SO I'M NOT SURE WHERE I AM POLITICALLY, BUT HOPEFULLY I VOTED THE RIGHT WAY A LOT OF TIMES. NOW FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE GOTTEN THE PICTURE, THAT IS AN ACTUAL PICTURE OF ME. ACTUALLY, I WAS ABOUT 33 YEARS OLD I THINK AND I HAD JUST FINISHED A RACE AND I WAS SWEATY AND HAPPY. AND THE BOTTOM ONE, THE AL DAVIS WINDFARM NEAR HYANNIS, THAT IS A WISH OF MINE, AL. SOMEDAY. SO I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT SOME OF THE MOMENTS I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER AND SOME ABOUT MY LEGACY. AND ONE OF THE MOMENTS I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER IS ONE OF THE FIRST DAYS I WAS IN THE LEGISLATURE AND I STOOD RIGHT UP HERE SOMEWHERE AND I TOOK OUT MY CELL PHONE AND I STARTED TO TALK. AND YOU'VE ALL PROBABLY GOTTEN AT LEAST ONE OF PATRICK'S LOOKS. BUT I LEARNED VERY QUICKLY. I'VE DONE THAT ONLY OCCASIONALLY SINCE THEN. BUT I LOVE PATRICK. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, PATRICK. AND SO AS WE THINK OF OUR LEGACY, I HAVE ONE LEGACY THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED LONG AFTER ALL OF US ARE GONE, AND I GOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT THAT BRIEFLY. THE SECOND YEAR I WAS IN HERE, I GOT TIRED OF DOING WHAT SENATOR CHAMBERS DOES AND THAT'S PILING ALL YOUR BOOKS ON THE TABLE. SO I BUILT A LITTLE LECTERN AND I WAS TOLD BY SOMEBODY UP HERE THAT YOU REALLY COULDN'T HAVE THAT, IT WASN'T STANDARD EQUIPMENT. BUT THEN

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PEOPLE AROUND ME SAID, COULD YOU BUILD ME ONE? SO I BUILT THREE OR FOUR AND THEN THE NEXT YEAR I CAME BACK AND ALL THESE LECTERNS WERE HERE BY YOUR DESK. SO I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT'S MY LEGACY, ARE THOSE LECTERNS. AND IT ALSO SORT OF FITS IN WITH ONE OF MY THEMES AND THAT IS TO SAVE PAPER SO IT ALL WORKED OUT FINE. I HAVE SOME REGRETS. OF COURSE, LIKE ALL...ANYBODY WHO HAS BEEN IN HERE, I DIDN'T ALWAYS GET MY WAY. BUT OF COURSE THAT'S A GOOD...THAT'S GOOD. WE REALLY DO GET BETTER BY WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO DON'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH US AND I'VE COME TO BELIEVE THAT. BUT ONE OF MY REGRETS IS I DIDN'T GET TO SERVE ON COMMITTEES WITH EVERYBODY. PEOPLE I SERVED ON COMMITTEES WITH I'VE REALLY GOTTEN TO KNOW WELL OVER THE YEARS AND I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT. SOME OF MY CLOSE FRIENDS, YOU LEARN HOW MANY PIECES OF BACON YOU CAN GET ON ONE PLATE AND THINGS LIKE THAT FROM YOUR FRIENDS. SO THANK YOU. THERE ARE TONS OF THEM. MY WIFE IS HERE AND SHE SAID I SHOULDN'T INTRODUCE HER, SO I WON'T TELL YOU SHE'S IN THE NORTH BALCONY UP THERE. I HAVE A LOT OF TROUBLE WITH TERM LIMITS, BUT I THINK IF I HAD COME, YOU KNOW, ABOUT A YEAR AGO AND SAID I'M GOING TO RUN AGAIN, THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A DIVORCE. AND YOU ALL KNOW WHAT THAT IS ABOUT. IT IS SO MUCH WORK THAT ALL OF US HAVE GONE THROUGH. I'D LIKE TO THANK MY SONS AND PARTICULARLY MY GRANDCHILDREN, I THINK, BECAUSE A LOT OF WHAT I HAVE DONE IN HERE AROUND ENVIRONMENTAL THINGS IS BECAUSE OF THEM. I WANT TO LEAVE THEM A WORLD AND, COLBY, I WANT TO LEAVE YOUR SON A WORLD AS GOOD AS THE ONE I'VE GOTTEN. I WANT TO THANK MY STAFF MEMBERS CURRENTLY AND ALL THE PAST ONES THAT I'VE HAD AND ALL THE PEOPLE UP HERE AND ALL THE PEOPLE ON THE COMMITTEES THAT WE JUST COULDN'T DO WITHOUT. AND THEN I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU. ONE OF MY MEASURES OF A SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEBODY IS IF WE'VE LAUGHED TOGETHER, AND MOST OF US HAVE LAUGHED TOGETHER OVER SOMETHING SOMETIME. AND OF COURSE, ALL THE CONSTITUENTS OF LD 21 FOR GIVING ME THIS PRIVILEGE. I WON BY 21 VOTES THE FIRST TIME AND THEN SECOND TIME WAS 85. YOU CAN TELL BUT I WORKED HARD. SO I'VE REALLY APPRECIATED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN THE LEGISLATURE, TO GET ALL OF YOU...TO GET TO KNOW ALL OF YOU. YOU ARE ALL PART OF MY FAMILY NOW AND THAT IS REALLY COOL. AND JUST CLOSE BY SAYING IT'S NOT OVER. WE GOT ALL THESE COMMITTEES THIS SUMMER. BUT AS BOB DYLAN SAID, THE ANSWER MY FRIEND IS BLOWING IN THE WIND. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR McCOY.

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SENATOR McCOY: WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IT IS FUN TO GET TO THIS POINT, TO BE HERE WITH SO MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES THAT I HAVE ENJOYED SERVING WITH AND A LOT OF THE SENATORS THAT MY CLASS HAD A CHANCE TO SERVE WITH WERE OBVIOUSLY FOLKS THAT WERE PREVIOUS CLASSES AND AREN'T HERE WITH US TODAY. BUT MANY OF US THINK OF THEM AS I KNOW ALL OF YOU WILL PROBABLY THINK OF PAST MEMBERS YOU SERVED WITH WHEN YOU ARE STANDING HERE AT SOME POINT IN YOUR DEPARTING DAY HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE. FIRST AND FOREMOST, I WANT TO THANK MY WIFE SHAUNA AND OUR KIDS. THIS HAS BEEN A FAMILY AFFAIR FOR US, TRULY, WITH A YOUNG FAMILY STARTING OUT YOUNG IN LIFE. SO MANY TIMES SHAUNA GAVE OF HERSELF. I THINK ALL OF US CAN RELATE TO THAT THAT IT TAKES A TEAM. IT TAKES A FAMILY. WE MAY BE THE ONES WHO PUSH THOSE BUTTONS ON OUR DESKS, BUT SO MANY OF OUR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AND PEOPLE THAT SUPPORT US AND LOVE US WHO PUT IN A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT AND SACRIFICES TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE. WE'VE LOVED PUBLIC SERVICE TOGETHER. TODAY HAPPENS TO BE OUR 14th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, AND LIKE ALWAYS, SHAUNA HAS BEEN WILLING TO GIVE OF HERSELF TO BE HERE FOR THIS. AND I WANT TO THANK MY FAMILY; THEY'RE OVER IN THE CORNER. THEY WERE ALREADY INTRODUCED EARLIER, BUT MY PARENTS ARE ALSO HERE TODAY AND I'M THANKFUL FOR THAT AND FOR THE GREAT UPBRINGING THEY GAVE ME TO GIVE ME A GREAT START IN LIFE. IT IS KIND OF NEAT--SOME OF OUR KIDS WON'T REMEMBER US EVER SERVING IN THE LEGISLATURE. MILLIE, WHO IS JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS OVER A MONTH OLD WOULD BE PROBABLY ONE OF THOSE. AND THEN THERE'S SOME OF OUR KIDS WHO DON'T REMEMBER WHEN WE DIDN'T SERVE IN THE LEGISLATURE. AND THEN THERE'S OUR TWO OLDEST KIDS WHO REMEMBER HOW TOUGH IT WAS OUT ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL AND ALL OF THE THINGS THAT YOU GO THROUGH TO GET HERE. IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE IN OUR NATION'S ONLY UNICAMERAL. I GET ASKED, AS MANY OF YOU DO, EVERYWHERE I TRAVEL AROUND THE COUNTRY WHAT IT'S LIKE TO SERVE IN THIS CHAMBER TO BE PART OF THIS BODY. AND I KNOW I TAKE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF PRIDE IN BEING PART OF THIS VERY UNIQUE INSTITUTION, AS I KNOW ALL OF YOU DO AS WELL. AND I, TOO, WANT TO ADD MY THANKS TO TRINITY CHAPPELEAR AND MARY JACOBSEN AND THEIR HUSBANDS FOR...AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THE TIRELESS AMOUNT OF WORK THAT THEY PUT IN. THIS IS A TEAM EFFORT, I THINK ALL OF US KNOW THAT. WHEN WE'RE A CITIZEN LEGISLATURE, WE CAN'T DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT ALL OF THE INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN THANKED. BUT I, TOO, WANT TO ADD MY THANKS TO THEM AS WELL. IT HAS BEEN A JOY AND, AS I SAID, AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE TO BE PART OF PUBLIC SERVICE. THIS WAS THE FIRST

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OFFICE I EVER RAN FOR, UNLIKE MANY OF YOU WHO HAD BEEN ON SCHOOL BOARDS, MAYORS, CITY COUNCILS. THIS WAS THE FIRST THING I HAD EVER...THIS IS THE FIRST ELECTED OFFICE THAT I HAD EVER HELD. AND IT'S A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU GET DOWN HERE AND YOU REALIZE THAT IT IS REALLY ALL UP TO YOU AND TO THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT AND HARD WORK THAT YOU PUT INTO IT TO REPRESENT YOUR DISTRICT AND THE STATE AS GOOD AS YOU CAN. I THINK SENATOR CAMPBELL DID A GREAT JOB OF RECOGNIZING KATHY UTTER AND KATHY'S DAUGHTER WHO IS HERE WITH HER TODAY. I, TOO, JUST AS A PARTING THING WANT TO THANK THOSE THAT CAME BEFORE BECAUSE I CAME INTO THE BODY WITH DENNIS UTTER IN 2009. HE AND I DIDN'T HAVE A WHOLE LOT IN COMMON IF YOU LOOKED AT IT ON FACE VALUE. WE'RE NEARLY 50 YEARS APART IN AGE, CAME FROM A LOT OF REALLY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE STATE. BUT WE HAD OFFICES IN THE BOWLING ALLEY, DOWN IN THE CENTER HALLWAY, THE FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS. AND DENNIS AND I WERE USUALLY ALWAYS THE FIRST TWO VEHICLES IN THE PARKING LOT IN THE MORNING, THOSE FIRST TWO OR THREE YEARS HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE. AND WE'D ALWAYS SIT IN DENNIS' OFFICE AND WE'D GO THROUGH THE NEWSPAPERS. WE DRANK WAY MORE COFFEE THAN WE SHOULD HAVE AT 6:00, 6:30, 7:00 IN THE MORNING WHEN THE BUILDING WAS QUIET, AND I LEARNED A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT FROM A MAN WHO HAD GIVEN OF HIMSELF FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. AND THAT IS WHAT I'M THANKFUL FOR. IT'S FOR ALL THOSE WHO POUR INTO US SO THAT WHEN WE LEAVE THIS PLACE, HOPEFULLY NOT ONLY HAVE WE LEFT IT BETTER, BUT WE HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH THAT WE CAN ENRICH OTHERS WITH OUR LIVES LATER ON. SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, IF YOU WOULD COME FORWARD.

SENATOR MELLO: WELL, THANK YOU, SPEAKER. AND GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES, GENERAL PUBLIC, LEGISLATIVE STAFF. AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, I DON'T DO VERY WELL READING SPEECHES. MY STAFF KNOWS THIS, AFTER WORKING FOR ME FOR EIGHT YEARS, SO I TOLD THEM I WAS GOING TO JUST GET UP, TALK A LITTLE BIT, LESS THAN NORDQUIST DID LAST YEAR (LAUGHTER) AND RECOLLECT A LITTLE BIT OF THE EXPERIENCE WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO SHARE TOGETHER AND OBVIOUSLY EXPRESS A LOT OF GRATITUDE TO A LOT OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE THIS EXPERIENCE WHAT IT HAS. FOR ME, PERSONALLY, THERE HAS BEEN A NUMBER OF MENTORS IN MY LIFE THAT HAVE TAKEN ME AT A YOUNG AGE, BEFORE I CAME IN THE LEGISLATURE AND SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN THE LEGISLATURE, WHO HAVE REALLY MADE A DRAMATIC IMPACT ON HOW TO LOOK AT THE WORLD, HOW TO TALK A LITTLE BIT SLOWER,

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HOW TO DEBATE MY COLLEAGUE, FORMER COLLEAGUE AND GOOD FRIEND, SENATOR HEIDEMANN, ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AMONGST MANY OTHERS. AND, ONE INDIVIDUAL THAT HAS...WILL ALWAYS REMAIN VERY CLOSE TO ME, BECAUSE OF MY LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE, WAS FORMER SENATOR HARMS FROM SCOTTSBLUFF. FORMER SENATOR HARMS IS ABOUT THE AGE OF MY GRANDFATHER. WHEN I WAS ELECTED AT THE TENDER AGE OF 28, WE SAT ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TOGETHER. AND EARLY ON HE PULLED ME ASIDE AND SAID, YOU CAN TALK REALLY WELL BUT YOU JUST GOT TO FOCUS THAT PASSION. AND EVER SINCE THAT FIRST TIME HE SAID THAT, JOHN HARMS HAS BEEN A GOOD VOICE OF REASON, HE'S BEEN A GOOD MENTOR, AND HE'S HELPED GUIDE ME, BOTH AS THE TIME OF THE APPROPRIATIONS CHAIR AND EVEN LAST YEAR WHEN WE CAME DOWN TO VISIT ME, IN REGARDS TO HOW TO LOOK AT THE LEGISLATURE, HOW TO LOOK AT EACH OTHER AS PEOPLE, AND THEN HOW TO REALLY SOLVE LONG-TERM PROBLEMS FACING THE STATE. ASIDE FROM JOHN HARMS, THERE'S A LOT OF FRIENDS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE ALONG THE WAY. AND I THINK YOU HEARD LAST YEAR, FORMER SENATOR NORDQUIST, STILL PROBABLY ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS, THE GODFATHER OF MY DAUGHTER, HE TALKS TO ME REGULARLY STILL, WISHES ALL OF YOU THE VERY BEST; AND THIS EXPERIENCE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE SAME WITHOUT HIM, BEING ABLE TO CAMPAIGN TOGETHER, BEING ABLE TO DRIVE DOWN TOGETHER. YES, I DID DRIVE HIM; HE DID DRIVE ME, OCCASIONALLY. BUT TO BE ABLE TO HAVE A GOOD FRIEND, SOMEONE THAT YOU CAN REALLY RELY ON TO BE ABLE TO SIT DOWN AND TALK THROUGH AN ISSUE, TALK THROUGH A CONCERN. AND THAT IS THE ONE THING I'D WISH ALL OF YOU AS I LEAVE, THAT YOU THINK THROUGH YOUR TIME HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE, TO REALLY VALUE THOSE FRIENDSHIPS, VALUE THOSE RELATIONSHIPS, BECAUSE THOSE ARE GOING TO LAST A LOT LONGER THAN THE FOUR, SIX, TO EIGHT YEARS YOU WILL BE DOWN HERE. AND THOSE RELATIONSHIPS NO DOUBT WILL MAKE YOU A BETTER POLICYMAKER, MAKE YOU A BETTER LEADER, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, MAKE YOU A BETTER PERSON. I WOULD OWE...I WOULD SAY TO BE ABLE TO DO THE WORK THAT THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH OMAHA SENT ME TO DO OVER THE LAST EIGHT YEARS, I COULDN'T HAVE COME CLOSE TO DOING IT WITHOUT THE PARTNER I HAVE IN MY WIFE CATHERINE. SHE IS OBVIOUSLY MY BIGGEST SUPPORTER BUT, MAN, SHE IS ONE OF THE BEST CRITICS YOU COULD ASK FOR (LAUGHTER). AND THE REASON I SAY THAT IS BECAUSE SHE IS SMARTER THAN I AM. SHE CAN FORM AN ARGUMENT BETTER THAN I CAN. AND SHE REALLY, SINCERELY NOT ONLY IS LOOKING OUT FOR ME, BUT SHE REALLY TRIES TO MAKE ME BE THE BETTER PERSON THAT SHE WANTS TO SEE. AND AS SENATOR McCOY MENTIONED, I WAS ELECTED, SLIGHTLY OLDER THAN SENATOR McCOY, SENATOR NORDQUIST. I WAS ELECTED AND WE WERE ENGAGED,

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NOT...WE WEREN'T MARRIED YET, NO KIDS. AND SO WE'VE GONE EIGHT YEARS, GROWING TOGETHER, GROWING TOGETHER AS A PARTNERSHIP, GROWING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY, TWO BEAUTIFUL KIDS IN ANGELINA AND JOHN. YOU COULD HEAR THEM VERY LOUDLY, LIKE THEIR FATHER, EARLIER THIS MORNING. AND WE HAVE BEEN VERY GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. BUT AS WE HAVE BEEN TALKING THROUGH THIS SESSION, IT HAS BEEN TOUGH. AND SENATOR McCOY KNOWS THAT, WITH A YOUNG FAMILY AS WELL. IT IS TOUGH TO SACRIFICE THE TIME, THE MEMORIES FOR THE PUBLIC, FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF WHAT WE WANT FOR THEIR FUTURE. SO SHE KNOWS I'M A CRIER; I CAN'T HELP IT; I JUST DO. THAT I'M FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR HER, FOR HER LEADERSHIP OF GUIDING OUR FAMILY; HER LEADERSHIP IN HELPING ME AND HELPING THE LEGISLATURE, I WOULD SAY, TO BE ABLE TO DO I THINK THE AMAZING WORK WE'VE DONE OVER THE LAST EIGHT YEARS. I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO THANK MY LEGISLATIVE STAFF WHO UNFORTUNATELY I HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF STAFFERS OVER THE YEARS. I'M GOING TO TRY TO REMEMBER ALL OF THEIR NAMES AND I THINK I HAVE IT DOWN PRETTY WELL: LACEY MERICA, JESSICA LATHROP, ANDREA FOX, TYANNE HUNDT, TREVOR FITZGERALD, ANTHONY CIRCO, LIZ HERTZLER, RACHEL MEIER, AND LAURIE VOLLERTSEN, ALL GREAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONE AMAZING WORK. THEY DO AN AWFUL LOT OF WORK THAT YOU WILL NEVER KNOW ABOUT. AS BILL DRAFTERS KNOW, THEY DRAFT PROBABLY TWICE AS MANY BILLS EVERY YEAR THAN I INTRODUCE. AND I WOULD SAY PUBLIC SERVICE WOULD NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT ALL OF THEIR HELP, WITH ALL OF THEIR ASSISTANCE, ALL THEIR DEDICATION OVER THE EIGHT YEARS. AND I HAVE ALWAYS TOLD PEOPLE THAT THE SUCCESS WE GENERATE AS ELECTED OFFICIALS REALLY GOES BACK TO THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE AROUND US. AND SO MY PERSONAL LEGISLATIVE STAFF, I CAN'T SAY THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR EIGHT WONDERFUL YEARS OF GETTING A LOT OF GOOD THINGS DONE FOR A LOT OF GOOD PEOPLE ACROSS THE STATE. PATRICK, DICK, CAROL, VICKI, DIANA, THE CLERK'S OFFICE, BILL DRAFTING, LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH, PERFORMANCE AUDIT, ACCOUNTING, EVERYONE IN THE COUNCIL DIVISION HAS MADE THIS EXPERIENCE WHAT IT IS. YES, I WILL LEAVE STILL PARTIALLY SCARED OF PATRICK'S STARES THAT HE GIVES US. BUT OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THOSE STARES A LITTLE BIT BETTER, LEARN FROM THEM, AND TRY TO DIRECT THEM TO OTHER SENATORS ALONG THE WAY (LAUGHTER). BUT OBVIOUSLY, I'M HUMBLED IN A SENSE, MORE THAN I COULD EVER EXPLAIN, THAT A NUMBER OF YOU WHO WERE HERE TOOK A CHANCE ON ME AS THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BACK IN 2013--YOUNG, 33 YEARS OLD, AND A NUMBER OF YOU REALLY ROLLED THE DICE IN REGARDS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU THOUGHT I COULD RISE ABOVE WHAT SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS

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HAVE BEEN IN THE LEGISLATURE, SOME OF THE DISAGREEMENTS THAT THERE HAD BEEN BETWEEN OUR BRANCH AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND TO TRY TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE BIG CHALLENGES FACING OUR STATE. I'LL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR THE 24 OF YOU WHO ARE HERE AND NOT HERE WHO TOOK A CHANCE AND ALL OF YOU LAST YEAR WHO REELECTED ME TO THAT POSITION. AND THE HOPE OF ANYTHING IS TO THANK YOU AND HOPEFULLY YOU WILL LOOK BACK IN THE SENSE THAT I KEPT MY PROMISES TO YOU AS COLLEAGUES. AND THAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I LOOK BACK IN MY TIME OF, ASIDE FROM WORKING ON LEGISLATIVE BILLS, ASIDE FROM THE CONVERSATIONS AND THE DEBATES, IS THAT I KEPT MY WORD TO YOU. I KEPT MY WORD ON WORKING WITH YOU ON BILLS THAT YOU NEEDED HELP WITH, TRY TO ADDRESS THOSE FISCAL NOTES THAT I KNOW MOST OF DON'T LIKE, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THAT YOU FELT THAT I WAS FAIR; THAT I TRIED TO TREAT YOU WITH RESPECT EVEN IF WE HAD A DISAGREEMENT. AND I WOULD GO OUT OF MY WAY, EVEN IF I DIDN'T AGREE WITH YOUR BILL, TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU WERE TREATED FAIRLY BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE FISCAL OFFICE, AND OVERALL THE PUBLIC WHEN IT CAME TO YOUR POLICY WHEN IT HAD ANY IMPACT AT ALL FISCALLY. AS I END, I'VE GOT TO OBVIOUSLY THANK THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BECOME LIKE FAMILY TO ME OVER FOUR YEARS. MIKE CALVERT AND THE FISCAL OFFICE, AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THEY DO SO MUCH WORK BEHIND THE SCENES THAT MOST OF US WILL NEVER TRULY KNOW. AND MIKE CALVERT HAS TAKEN A SOMETIMES AGGRESSIVE, SOMETIMES WILEY, SOMETIMES BOISTEROUS, YOUNG SENATOR FROM SOUTH OMAHA AND REALLY MENTORED ME AND HELPED SHAPE THE SENATOR I AM TODAY, THE POLICYMAKER AND ARGUABLY THE MAN I AM TODAY, TEACHING ME THINGS THAT I COULD ONLY HOPE YOU SENATORS WILL LEARN FROM LEGISLATORS AND FISCAL STAFF, THE CLERK'S STAFF, AND OTHERS IN YOUR TIME HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE. OBVIOUSLY, THE FISCAL OFFICE, ALL THE ANALYSTS, TOM BERGQUIST, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ALL SHARE A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART, SHARE A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE AND I THANK YOU BECAUSE WE HAVE DONE AN AWFUL LOT IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, GOOD THINGS. OBVIOUSLY, SOME OF YOU MAY DISAGREE WITH THEM BUT I WOULD SAY SOME VERY GOOD THINGS FOR THE STATE, WORKING WITH TWO DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIONS TO HELP DO SOME AMAZING WORK FOR URBAN, RURAL, AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN. I OWE A LOT OF MY EXPERIENCE TO THEM FOR TEACHING ME, MENTORING ME, AS A VERY YOUNG SENATOR, TAKING IN SOMEONE AND WALKING THEM THROUGH THE ARDUOUS PROCESS OF THE BUDGET FROM BEHIND THE SCENES, NOT SIMPLY AS A MEMBER OF A COMMITTEE. MY HOPE IS YOU AS A SENATOR WILL GO TO THEM MORE OFTEN. THEY SERVE A VERY VALUABLE RESOURCE THAT

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YOU WILL NEVER FULLY KNOW UNTIL YOU SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH THEM OVER THE INTERIM, DOWN IN THEIR OFFICE, ON RETIREMENT BILLS, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE BILLS, EDUCATION BILLS, TAX BILLS, YOU NAME IT. SO WITH THAT, MICHAEL, THANK YOU. THE FISCAL OFFICE, THANK YOU. IT HAS BEEN AN EXPERIENCE THAT I'LL NEVER FORGET. AND AS I LEAVE YOU WITH THIS, PUBLIC SERVICE, AS YOU HEARD FROM OTHER SENATORS, IS A NOBLE CALLING. SOMETIMES WE GET DENIGRATED FOR BEING POLITICIANS FOR DOING THINGS THAT THE PUBLIC DOESN'T AGREE WITH OR THEY THINK THAT WE'RE NOT ACTING IN THEIR BEST FAITH OR THEIR BEST INTERESTS, THAT SOMEHOW ALONG THE LINES THAT GOVERNMENT HAS GONE OFF THE TRACKS AND EVERYTHING WE HAVE DONE JUST IS OUT TO GET THEM. I CAN TELL YOU WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS AND THE SENATORS WHO CAME BEFORE YOU THIS IS A NOBLE CALLING. BEING IN THIS UNIQUE LEGISLATURE IS A NOBLE EXPERIENCE. AND WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN UNBELIEVABLE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE STATE AND TO SOLVE BIG PROBLEMS. MY HOPE IS AS YOU LEAVE--AND YOU HEARD THE SPEAKER TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT IT--THAT YOU REMEMBER THE CIVILITY THAT WE NEED TO GOVERN; THAT YOU REMEMBER THE RELATIONSHIPS MATTER MORE THAN SOMETIMES THE POLICY; THAT YOU CAN DISAGREE WITH A SENATOR ON AN OVERRIDE AND STILL GO SPEND THE WEEKEND WITH THEM. THAT, COLLEAGUES, IS WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT. THAT'S WHAT SEPARATES THE UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE AND THAT'S WHAT SEPARATES PUBLIC SERVICE FROM SIMPLY BEING, QUOTE UNQUOTE, A POLITICIAN. I THANK YOU FOR THAT EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE. I THANK THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED ME IN SOUTH OMAHA, MY FAMILY, MY FRIENDS, MY PARENTS AND EVERYWHERE BETWEEN, THANK YOU FOR THIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE. AND GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU IN THE FUTURE. THANK YOU.

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHILZ.

SENATOR SCHILZ: WELL, GOOD AFTERNOON, ALREADY HAD TO CHANGE MY SPEECH. I HAD "GOOD MORNING," WISHFUL THINKING. SHOULD HAVE KNOWN, RIGHT? BUT THANK YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THIS OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN ONE THAT HAS BEEN VERY FULFILLING AND VERY GOOD FOR ME AS A PERSON, AS A MAN AND I WANT TO SAY THANKS TO EVERYONE. BUT TO FIRST START OUT, I NEED TO REALLY SAY THANKS FIRST TO MY FAMILY: MY WIFE DEB, MY SON JAKE, AND MY DAUGHTER LIBBY WHO HAVE BEEN THERE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING WHEN THIS STARTED. YOU KNOW, MY DAUGHTER WAS 8 YEARS OLD, I THINK, WHEN I GOT IN HERE; MY SON WAS 14. AND SO MY WIFE HAS BASICALLY HAD TO RAISE THEM WHILE I WAS DOWN HERE DOING THIS JOB.

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AND OBVIOUSLY, SHE'S DONE A MUCH BETTER JOB THAN I COULD HAVE AND SO I APPRECIATE THAT VERY MUCH. IT IS HUMBLING TO ME TO KNOW THAT YOU CAN HAVE SOMEBODY STANDING RIGHT THERE BESIDE YOU THAT BELIEVES IN EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO AND IS WILLING TO WORK TO HELP YOU GET TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE. AND WHEN YOU FIND SOMEBODY THAT IS THAT SELFLESS, YOU JUST BETTER HANG ON TIGHT. SO DON'T LET IT...DEB, THAT'S FOR YOU BACK THERE. THANKS. AND THEN, OF COURSE, I HAVE TO THANK MY STAFF. AND FROM THE FIRST YEAR THAT I GOT INTO THE LEGISLATURE WHEN MELISSA HILTY AND JAMAICA ERWIN WERE IN THAT FIRST OFFICE THAT I HAD AND THEY WORKED WITH ME TO LEARN HOW THIS WHOLE THING WORKS AND HOW THINGS COME TOGETHER. AND THEY WERE WITH ME PRETTY MUCH CLEAR THROUGH UNTIL THIS LAST SESSION AND THEN THEY MOVED ON. AND BRENT SMOYER CAME ON BOARD; SERVED AS CHAIR OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE SO RICK LEONARD WAS THERE WORKING WITH ME AS WELL ON ISSUES AND THAT WAS REALLY GOOD. AND THEN NOW WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH BARB KOEHLMOOS AND LAURIE LAGE HAS BEEN AMAZING. AND AS YOU ALL KNOW, STAFF IS THE DIFFERENCE MAKER IN THIS BODY AND WE NEED THEM. WE HAVE TO HAVE THEM AND THEY ARE THE ONES THAT ACTUALLY MAKE US LOOK PRESENTABLE AND GOOD AND GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET DONE WHAT WE NEED TO GET DONE. AND I THINK WE ALSO...I NEED TO THANK THOSE STAKEHOLDERS THAT WERE INVOLVED IN ALL OF THE ISSUES THAT I HAD TO DEAL WITH IN THE DIFFERENT COMMITTEES AND THINGS LIKE THAT. BRINGING FOLKS TOGETHER AND HAVING PEOPLE COME TOGETHER IN A ROOM TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IS THE ONE THING DOWN HERE THAT YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER AND YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO...YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THAT WORK. AND IF YOU DO, YOU CAN GET SOME THINGS DONE AND YOU CAN GET GOOD POLICY WRITTEN. AND, OF COURSE, I NEED TO THANK ALL OF YOU, BECAUSE WITHOUT YOU GUYS, THIS WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE AT ALL. AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU HAS GIVEN SOMETHING TO ME WHICH I WILL TAKE FROM HERE FOREVER, AND I VERY MUCH, VERY MUCH, APPRECIATE THAT. YOU KNOW, WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE, I REMEMBER WE HAD ORIENTATION CLASSES AND WE WOULD SIT THERE AND WE'D TALK ABOUT STUFF AND WE'D ALL LOOK AROUND THE ROOM WONDERING, JEEZ, I WONDER WHO THE HECK THESE OTHER PEOPLE ARE. WHO IS THAT GUY? AND I REMEMBER, AND THIS HAS JUST ALWAYS STUCK IN MY MIND, I ALWAYS REMEMBER ONE GUY THAT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE HE'D COME AROUND AND HE'D LOOK IN THE DOOR. RIGHT? AND HE'D LOOK THERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND THEN HE'D WALK AWAY. AND THEN A BIT LATER HE'D COME BACK AND HE'D LOOK IN THE DOOR AGAIN A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER AND THEN WE WOULDN'T

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SEE HIM ANYMORE. WELL, I FOUND OUT THAT THAT WAS SENATOR COASH. AND BECAUSE HE HADN'T WON HIS ELECTION YET, HE COULDN'T COME TO THE ORIENTATION SO HE WAS STUCK IN THE HALLWAY (LAUGHTER). SO THAT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS I REMEMBER. SENATOR HAAR, THE TREES WILL BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF WHEN YOU LEAVE. SO I JUST WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT. IT WILL BE GOOD. BUT, YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU GET IN HERE, YOU KNOW, YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE WORLD BY THE STRING. AND, YOU KNOW, YOU WON THAT ELECTION, YOU GET IN HERE, AND YOU ARE GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD WITH THAT ONE VOTE THAT YOU ARE BRINGING HERE. AND THEN PRETTY QUICK YOU FIGURE OUT, YOU KNOW WHAT? IT TAKES A LOT MORE THAN THAT. YOU HAVE TO AT LEAST GET 24 OTHER PEOPLE TO AGREE WITH YOU, USUALLY THESE DAYS A FEW MORE. BUT...AND THEN THAT IS WHEN THE REAL WORK BEGAN AND THAT'S WHEN YOU FIRST START TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT ACTUALLY TAKES TO BUILD THE COALITIONS, TO BUILD THE SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN ISSUES TO MOVE ISSUES FORWARD. AND SO OVER THE YEARS I LEARNED HOW TO BRING VARYING AND SOMETIMES OPPOSING FACTIONS TOGETHER TO FIND THOSE WORKABLE SOLUTIONS AND TO RESOLVE ISSUES AND CRAFT POLICY. SEE, I SHOULDN'T HAVE WRITTEN MINE DOWN BECAUSE I DON'T READ WELL EITHER. BUT, ANYWAY, THIS WAY I WON'T FORGET ANYTHING. I LEARNED TO WORK FOR THE GREATER GOOD, NOT TO SEEK OUT THE SPOTLIGHT, BUT TO WORK WITH WHOMEVER WAS SERIOUS AND WILLING TO HELP WRITE GOOD LEGISLATION. I THINK THAT'S IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY BEING A CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE. YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU AND IT'S NOT NECESSARILY ABOUT WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND WHAT YOU THINK. IT'S ABOUT MAKING SURE THAT THOSE PEOPLE THAT BRING BILLS TO YOUR COMMITTEE GET A FAIR SHAKE, GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THE BEST PRODUCT PUT OUT THERE TO HAVE THE BEST CHANCE FOR SUCCESS FOR THAT INDIVIDUAL SENATOR OR GROUP OF SENATORS. I LEARNED THAT CONFLICTS NECESSARILY HAPPEN WHEN PASSIONATE PEOPLE FIGHT FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS RIGHT AND TRUE. AND I WANT TO COMMEND EVERYONE FOR HOLDING STRONG TO THOSE POSITIONS, WHATEVER THEY ARE. BECAUSE WITHOUT THOSE POSITIONS AND WITHOUT THAT CONVICTION, THIS BODY WOULD NOT BE WHAT IT IS AND WE WOULDN'T GET DONE THE GOOD THINGS THAT WE GET DONE HERE. I LEARNED HOW TO MAKE AN ACCURATE VOTE COUNT, TOOK ME ABOUT SIX YEARS. BUT YOU WOULD THINK IT WOULD BE EASIER THAN IT ACTUALLY IS. BUT I COULD TELL YOU, FOLKS, AS YOU ALL KNOW, SOMETIMES IT IS PRETTY TOUGH. AND SO YOU CAN WORK ON THAT THROUGHOUT YOUR WHOLE CAREER, AND SOMETIMES YOU STILL NEVER KNOW IF YOU'VE GOT IT RIGHT. AND I ALSO LEARNED THAT WHEN YOU SERVE IN THIS UNICAMERAL YOU GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW SENATORS PRETTY DARN

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WELL. AND THROUGHOUT THE YEARS OF SERVICE, A BOND IS CREATED AMONGST ALL OF US HERE IN THIS CHAMBER, ONE THAT FOR ME WILL LAST FAR BEYOND MY TIME HERE. THERE IS NO DENYING IT WILL BE HARD TO WALK AWAY FROM THIS INSTITUTION, FROM BEING INVOLVED AND SOLVING ALL THE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS THAT WERE PUT IN FRONT OF US. BUT DON'T...LET'S SEE. OH, YEAH. YOU KNOW, AND THROUGHOUT THOSE YEARS OF SERVICE, A BOND IS CREATED HERE AND THAT ONE WILL LAST FAR BEYOND--I SAID THAT ALREADY. OKAY. LIKE I SAID, IT'S NO DENYING IT'S HARD TO WALK AWAY FROM THIS INSTITUTION, FROM BEING INVOLVED IN SOLVING PROBLEMS. AND IT IS HARD TO WALK AWAY FROM THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE'VE ALL FORGED OVER OUR TIME HERE. SO AS MY SERVICE HERE DRAWS TO A CLOSE, I WANT TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO WORK TOGETHER ON THE ISSUES. DON'T FALL INTO THE TRAPS, EAST VERSUS WEST; RURAL VERSUS URBAN. WORK TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCES AND THEN COME TOGETHER TO FIND SOLUTIONS THAT HELP ALL NEBRASKANS. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE TO WORK TO FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN OUR STATE. A GROWING, HEALTHY ECONOMY CAN MAKE MANY CHALLENGES WE FACE MUCH EASIER TO DEAL WITH. AND TAX POLICY AND TAX RELIEF SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A PRIORITY, AND I KNOW THAT YOU FOLKS ARE GOING TO KEEP THAT UP. PROPERTY TAX WAS AN ISSUE WHEN I CAME IN HERE EIGHT YEARS AGO. PROPERTY TAX IS STILL THE ISSUE SO I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING AWAY ANY TIME SOON, UNLESS GOING FORWARD YOU GUYS CAN HANDLE THAT AND DO SOMETHING FOR IT. AND LASTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE HERE TO TAKE SOME TIME AND TRAVEL WEST TO VISIT LAKE McCONAUGHY THIS YEAR WHERE--NOW THIS IS IMPORTANT--WHERE I WILL BE SETTING UP THE FIRST NEBRASKA BEACH BUM SEMINAR AND IT WILL LAST ALL SUMMER LONG ON THE BEACHES OF LAKE McCONAUGHY. SO JUST COME OUT. IT'S ONLY A NOMINAL FEE. JUST COME OUT, SIT DOWN, HAVE SOME ICED TEA AND ENJOY YOURSELF IN WESTERN NEBRASKA. AND WITH THAT, THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE FOR PUTTING UP WITH ME. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE AND A WONDERFUL HONOR. THANK YOU.

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COME FORWARD.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: COLLEAGUES. OH, IT OCCURS TO ME THAT THAT MIGHT BE ONE OF THE LAST TIMES THAT I SAY THAT WORD. GRATITUDE IT WHAT I AM FEELING TODAY. GRATITUDE AS I SAY FAREWELL TO YOU AND THIS GREAT INSTITUTION THAT WE CALL THE UNICAMERAL. GRATITUDE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY THAT I'VE HAD TO SERVE THE CONSTITUENTS OF DISTRICT 41 IN

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THIS GREAT INSTITUTION. BUT GRATITUDE, CERTAINLY, FOR A WHOLE LOT MORE. YOU SAW THAT MY FAMILY IS ALL HERE TODAY. AND CERTAINLY THERE IS A WHOLE BUNCH OF GRATITUDE THAT GOES OUT TO THEM. TO MY HUSBAND MIKE, HE IS MY ROCK, THE WIND UNDERNEATH MY WINGS; AND I AM SO GLAD THAT HE HAS BEEN WITH ME ALL ALONG THE WAY. TO OUR TWO DAUGHTERS, JILL AND MOLLIE, AND OUR SON-IN-LAW JOHN, MY BIGGEST CHEERLEADERS AND MY PATIENT SOUNDING BOARDS. AND, OF COURSE, THOSE GRANDCHILDREN OF OURS: RIVER SURPRISED ME LAST NIGHT. HE CAME ALL THE WAY FROM LOS ANGELES WITH HIS MOTHER TO BE WITH US TODAY. AND THOSE TWO LITTLE GRANDDAUGHTERS OF OURS, CLARA AND NORAH. AS I DRIVE HOME ON A FRIDAY NIGHT, SOMETIMES MY HEAD FULL OF SO MANY THINGS, SOMETIMES MY HEART HEAVY WITH WHAT WE EITHER DIDN'T GET DONE OR WERE TRYING TO DO. AND AS THEY WALKED IN THE DOOR OF OUR HOME IN CEDAR RAPIDS TO BE GREETED BY THOSE LITTLE CHERUBS, WITH CRIES OF "MIMI'S HOME," THEN YOU JUST...THE LOAD IS LIGHTENED BUT THEN YOU ARE ALSO REMINDED OF WHY WE'RE HERE AND DOING THE THINGS THAT WE DO FOR OUR FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN. GRATITUDE, CERTAINLY, TO MY STAFF. TALK ABOUT ROCKS AND ROCK STARS. MY LEGISLATIVE AIDE, MIKKI McCANN, HAS SERVED THE LEGISLATURE FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS, ALL IN DISTRICT 41. SHE KNOWS IT LIKE THE BACK OF HER HAND. I'M THE FIFTH SENATOR IN DISTRICT 41 WHO SHE HAS WORKED FOR. ROCK STAR MANDY MIZERSKI, COMMITTEE CLERK EXTRAORDINAIRE, ALWAYS AT THE READY, ALWAYS ORGANIZED. THE TWO LEGAL COUNSELS FOR THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, LAMONT RAINEY AND TAMMY BARRY--THE SKILL, THE EXPERTISE, THE DEDICATION. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT LONG HOURS, CRAFTING LEGISLATION, DOING IT RIGHT, KEEPING US ON A CONSTITUTIONAL PATH, AND THEN HAVING TO TURN ON A DIME AND DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN BECAUSE I'VE NEGOTIATED SOMETHING ELSE. THANK YOU. THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. AND OF COURSE, IT HAS BEEN MENTIONED ALL OF THE OTHER LEGISLATIVE GROUPS THAT THE SPEAKER MENTIONED EARLIER. I WANT TO SAY TO THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA, YOU SEE US OUT HERE, THE 49 OF US, IN THE MEDIA AND WHEN YOU TUNE IN. BUT REST ASSURED, THERE ARE SO MANY DEDICATED PEOPLE THAT WORK BEHIND THE SCENES. IT IS JUST AMAZING AND REMARKABLE. THIS INSTITUTION IS SO WELL SERVED BY ALL THEIR SERVICE. YOU KNOW, A FEW WEEKS AGO, I UNCOVERED AN E-MAIL THAT MOLLIE, OUR DAUGHTER, SENT TO ME ALMOST A YEAR AGO TO THE DATE. AT THE TIME, SHE WAS WORKING WITH A GROUP OF 8TH GRADERS IN THE HIGH ABILITY LEARNING PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT SHE WAS IN AT THE TIME. AND THEY WERE RESEARCHING THE AMERICAN DREAM. AND ONE OF THE READINGS THAT THEY HAD WAS FROM A SPEECH THAT WAS GIVEN BY

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PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY. AND SHE SHARED IT WITH ME BECAUSE AS SHE SAID, AND I QUOTE, IT MADE ME THINK OF YOU AND YOUR ROLE IN THE LEGISLATURE. AND IN THAT SPEECH, PRESIDENT KENNEDY CHALLENGED US AS ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO JUDGE EITHER OUR SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN OUR SERVICE BY ANSWERING FOUR QUESTIONS AND I TOOK THOSE TO HEART. FIRST QUESTION WAS, WAS I A PERSON OF COURAGE--COURAGE TO STAND UP TO ONE'S ENEMIES, COURAGE WHEN NECESSARY TO STAND UP TO ONE'S ASSOCIATES, THE COURAGE TO RESIST PUBLIC PRESSURE AS WELL AS PRIVATE GREED? A SECOND QUESTION, WAS I A PERSON OF JUDGMENT--PERCEPTIVE JUDGMENT OF THE FUTURE AS WELL AS THE PAST; OF MY OWN MISTAKES, AS WELL AS THE MISTAKES OF OTHERS, WITH ENOUGH WISDOM TO KNOW WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW AND ENOUGH CANDOR TO ADMIT IT? WAS I A PERSON OF INTEGRITY WHO NEVER RAN OUT ON EITHER THE PRINCIPLES OF WHICH I HOLD DEAR OR THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN THEM OR WHO BELIEVED IN ME? AND FINALLY, WAS I A PERSON OF DEDICATION WITH AN HONOR MORTGAGED TO NO SINGLE INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP AND COMPROMISED BY NO PRIVATE OBLIGATION OR AIM, BUT DEVOTED SOLELY TO THE PUBLIC GOOD? WELL, COLLEAGUES, I TRIED. I THANK YOU, GOOD LUCK, AND GODSPEED.

SENATOR COASH PRESIDING

SENATOR COASH: SPEAKER HADLEY.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE ONE THING I LEARNED IN THE EIGHT YEARS HERE, THE WAY YOU GET A BILL PASSED IS TO HAVE THE SPEAKER SCHEDULE IT AT 11:40 BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING LIKE KEEPING THE SENATORS FROM THEIR LUNCH. SO I WILL TRY TO MAKE THIS BRIEF. I WAS LOOKING AT SOME VITAL DATA THE OTHER DAY: 6'2", 170 POUNDS, BRILLIANT GREEN EYES, BROWN HAIR--THAT IS MY DRIVER'S LICENSE EIGHT YEARS AGO (LAUGHTER). IT HAS CHANGED A LITTLE SINCE THEN. FIRST, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT PEOPLE BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT I REALLY BELIEVE THIS IS ABOUT--THE FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES THAT I HAVE MET OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS. I WANT TO START WITH MY WIFE MARILYN, IF SHE WOULD PLEASE STAND. MARILYN? I OWE HER SO MUCH. I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY WITHOUT HER STEADFASTNESS. YOU KNOW, THERE ARE THREE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD THAT WOULD ASK ME, GALEN, WHY DID YOU VOTE THAT WAY? MARILYN, I WOULD SAY, I'LL TRY HARDER NEXT TIME. SENATOR FISCHER, I WOULD SAY, I'LL TRY HARDER NEXT TIME. AND SENATOR BILL AVERY, I WOULD SAY, WHAT THE HELL YOU TALKING ABOUT, BILL? I'VE HAD A GREAT OFFICE STAFF: OLLIE, COURTNEY, SALLY SCHULTZ, JEANETTE, LAURIE WEBER. I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT THEM

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THE LAST TWO YEARS. THEY HAVE JUST ABSOLUTELY BEEN TERRIFIC. WORKING WITH PATRICK HAS JUST BEEN GREAT. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE HAS AND THE STAFF UP HERE, YOU KNOW, IS JUST SUPER. AS I SAID, THIS IS ABOUT PEOPLE. IT IS ABOUT 88--I COUNTED THEM--88 INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE I'VE SERVED WITH IN THIS BODY THE LAST EIGHT YEARS, AND I CONSIDER EVERY ONE OF THEM A FRIEND. YOU KNOW, THAT IS ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING A SMALL GROUP. YOU DO BECOME FRIENDS. IT'S THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE GLASS. IT'S THE PEOPLE BEHIND OURSELVES, THE STAFF. IT'S THE CITIZENS OF NEBRASKA, PEOPLE I WOULD HAVE NEVER MET IN MY ENTIRE LIFE IF I HADN'T BEEN HERE. THE MEDIA. JUST REMEMBER, YOU WON'T HAVE GALEN TO KICK AROUND ANYMORE AFTER THIS, RICHARD NIXON, I.E. I WANT TO MENTION JUST A COUPLE OF OTHER THINGS. TWO PEOPLE I MISS DEARLY--SENATOR DENNIS UTTER. DENNIS AND I BECAME VERY CLOSE WHEN DENNIS WAS HERE. AND I REMEMBER THE NIGHTS BACK IN THE DAYS WE USED TO GO UNTIL 10:30 OR 11:00, WE'D SIT IN THE BACK ROW OVER THERE, KIND OF DARK WHERE NO ONE COULD SEE US. WE'D SIT THERE AND SAY, WHAT IS GOING ON HERE? I JUST REALLY, REALLY MISS HIM. AND I MISS BERRI BALKA, WHO WAS A FRIEND OF 40 YEARS WHO WAS MY LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT WHO PASSED AWAY ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO. I WISH THEY WERE HERE TODAY. LASTLY, WHEN I STOOD BEFORE YOU TWO YEARS AGO, I SAID I WOULD TRY TO BE TWO THINGS: FAIR AND I WOULD BE TRUTHFUL. I HOPE YOU JUDGE THE LAST TWO YEARS ON THOSE TWO THINGS, AND I HOPE I MET YOUR EXPECTATIONS. THANK YOU.

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES. I MOVE THAT ALL BILLS NOT OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF, EXCLUDING BILLS ON FINAL READING AND VETOED OR LINE-ITEM VETOED BILLS ON THIS DATE BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR GLOOR: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT THE CHAIRPERSONS OF ALL STANDING COMMITTEES FILE WITH THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE ALL STANDING COMMITTEE RECORDS SO THAT A PROPER RECORD MAY BE MADE OF THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF ALL BILLS.

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT THE LEGISLATURE APPROVE THE PREPARATION AND PRINTING OF THE PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL, SESSION LAWS, AND INDEXES BY PATRICK J. O'DONNELL, AND THAT HE BE DIRECTED TO SEND TO EACH MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE A COPY OF THE PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL AND SESSION LAWS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CAMPBELL. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. BEFORE I READ THIS MOTION, I KNOW IT'S PROBABLY NOT NORMAL, I DID WANT TO THANK ONE STAFF PERSON I FORGOT OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE I MENTIONED, ANTHONY CIRCO, WHO NOW WORKS IN THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE. I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO THANK HIM FOR HIS SERVICE. BUT WITH THAT, MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT THE JOURNAL FOR THE SIXTIETH DAY, AS PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE, BE APPROVED.

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. SPEAKER HADLEY, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, I MOVE THAT THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION, OF THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE, HAVING FINISHED ALL BUSINESS BEFORE IT NOW, AT 1:32 ADJOURN SINE DIE.

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. WE ARE ADJOURNED SINE DIE.