

April 10, 1980

Hoagland? Senator Vickers, Senator Wagner, will you please be the escort group to meet and bring the group in. There are ten guests. Will the committee please escort the guests to the front of the chamber. It is my privilege to welcome our guests to the only Unicameral Legislature in the United States, one that is constantly peaceable without any basic controversy and we are so cooperative with each other we don't even need another House to check us. It is my pleasure to present to you first of all the Ambassador from Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Faisal Alheglan and his wife, Madame Nouha Alheglan. We appreciate having both of these people here and I hope that I came close to the pronunciation as far as the names are concerned. Mr. Ambassador, we would consider it a privilege if you would address us for a few moments.

AMBASSADOR SHEIKH FAISAL ALHEGLAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature and guests. I am honored by your invitation to address this unique legislative body on behalf of my country. I know that you have a busy schedule and I shall be brief. Your society and Saudi Arabia share very fundamental qualities, even while on almost opposite sides of the globe from each other. In their respective settings both place special importance on stability and continuity. At the same time both are dynamic and vigorously development minded. Both stress the fundamentals of life, the importance of religion and the center role of the family. Like your society, Saudi Arabia is a strong champion of private enterprise and individual responsibility. Like this part of America we have a demanding climatic setting which has produced a hardy society and people. The relationship between our two nations merits special attention. Saudi Arabia now provides almost 16% of all of the oil being used by Americans. That plays an essential role for solvent American farms and factories and it helps heat and light millions of American homes and people and propel millions of US trucks, cars, buses and other vehicles. Possessing a fourth of the entire planet's proven petroleum reserves, a third of all of the oil internationally available, Saudi Arabia is committed along with the United States to work for international order and the well being of both international economy and those of our individual societies. Sometimes almost alone Saudi Arabia has worked to restrain rising oil prices and to reconcile the interests of the consuming and producing nations on behalf of the larger concern which we all share. For quite some time the Kingdom has voluntarily maintained higher production than it considered in its own interest and it has done that to restrain rising prices pressures caused not by other oil producers but by the unrestrained oil appetite of the most developed countries. A special extra effort by Saudi Arabia is in effect at present, but it cannot continue long without exhausting irreplaceable resources which will be