

May 29, 1981

strongly encouraged me to visit with the Speaker to avoid that. So I went to Dick in January and said, Dick, we will go along but I want to tell you real early at the end of the session we don't want to repeat what happened before, so if you get anything in the day before or so, that's fine. We will make an agreement, we'll get it all back to you and we will not though make such an agreement for what comes back the last day so we can avoid the misunderstandings that we had in the past. As I understand it, as you were grinding down here again there were some questions about what this arrangement was or wasn't. Again, as Don Stenberg in my office and myself visited with the Chairman of the Exec Committee, Howard Lamb, and Senator Marvel again to be sure there was no misunderstanding on what this arrangement was, and I thought it was abundantly clear, and, frankly, it bugged me a little this afternoon when I get called rotten or something by one of the members of the Legislature as if I was reneging on the deal, or whatever it was, to be sure it was a clear, good faith and I think rightful understanding that we have. Now let me say that we have had some differences in this session. In my opinion it's been a hard working Legislature. It consists of men and women who are honest and intelligent, and best of all almost without exception sincere to serving the best interests of the citizens of their district and Nebraska. In addition to complimenting you on your many good qualities, I want to praise you for your accomplishments. This has been an active session. You have passed a considerable amount of worthwhile legislation. You have handled some very complex and difficult matters. A couple of them would merit just brief mention here. You have completed both the congressional and legislative redistricting. Whereas, I believe these matters to be fairly settled here now, in other states they will be the subject of squabbles and court battles up until the 1982 elections. And when the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the 1980 legislation for providing \$70 million in local relief for loss of property taxes, your session came up with a solution that made it possible to put state aid checks in the mail to local governments earlier this month for nearly all of that \$70 million. A couple of months after I was inaugurated on Statehood Day, March 1, 1979, I gave a speech out here in the Capitol rotunda. At that time I outlined ten areas that I thought should be given priority for progress during the four years of '79 through '82. Today I would like to thank each and everyone of you members of the Legislature for the forward strides that have been made in all of those ten