

May 29, 1981

areas during this session of the Legislature. Quickly, we will rattle off those ten points. Number one was agriculture. This session passed legislation to give greater protection to farmers who have grain in commercial storage. The Legislature provided a means that would allow young people to obtain loans to begin farming and allow farmers to get capital, their need to expand their agriculture operations to economical size. Our marketing potential has been vastly strengthened by your work product this year. Number two on water. You members of this Legislature have provided for significant improvement in funding for natural resource conservation. You passed a bill that I signed into law that will safeguard the quality of Nebraska's underground water. In referring to this legislation, a World Herald editorial on Wednesday of this week said, and I quote, "Water protection wins another round and this one resoundingly". I think you can take pride in that. The Public Works Committee and the Legislature still have pending before them proposals of far-reaching import concerning the state's water supply, and I feel we can count on still further and needed progress being made in this field in 1982 after we receive the comprehensive inflow stream and groundwater studies this fall. Number three, citizen participation in government. Last year I formed a Citizens Task Force for Government Improvement, Chaired by Earl Luff here in Lincoln. Fifty-five outstanding men and women from every part of this state volunteered their time and paid their own expenses. They made a number of recommendations for fixing responsibility and accountability, if you please, of state government. Thanks again to this Legislature, many of the major Task Force recommendations requiring legislation have been enacted. And, frankly, again we'll be attempting to persuade you to pass some more next year as we administratively go ahead with this government improvement. Number four on health. One of the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force for Government Improvement was that the State Department of Health be made responsible to the Governor. You passed, with Senator Sam Cullan's leadership, the legislation to bring this about. It will result in closer cooperation among the Health Department and all other state agencies that provide human services. The cancer research and alcohol treatment bills are also significant. I might just add here parenthetically that they are a little more significant than Luenberger and your Governor had in mind earlier this afternoon. Number five is education. At considerable expense to the state, the Legislature has made major improvements in the retirement program for all Nebraska