

onyx from Utah and Vermont, bronze from New York and Michigan, and walnut and cement from our own State of Nebraska. Materials for this great structure came from around the nation and around the world, but it was the indomitable spirit of the citizens of our state that put it all together. This blending of steel and stone and sinew produced a building which reflects the history of art, law and literature. It also reflects the native history and Indian lore of our state and the development of our nation as a whole. This project never would have been realized on such a grand scale without the artistic genius of sculptor Lee Laurie. His affectionate collaboration with architect Goodhue allowed such a perfect meshing of art and architecture that it becomes impossible to decide where one stops and the other begins. His work with the medium of bas-relief provides us with scenes of many of the great moments in law giving--from Moses to the Magna Carta--and adds to and enlarges the dignity and heritage of our legislative body. His greatest contribution crowns our building with the symbol of our state's greatest and most important industry, and reflects the pride and determination of the individualism which has made Nebraska's agriculture distinguished and respected in the eyes of the world. The State Capitol Commission perhaps put it best in one of their statements which said "The Capitol of a state is the outward sign of the character of its people--their respect for its traditions and history, their belief in its importance and worth and their love of its fair name. Let the new Capitol be their symbol." That statement, incidentally, so well conceived appears on the logo which is shown on the seal and the button placed on your desks. As we begin to celebrate the 50th year of the Nebraska State Capitol, we should realize that the intent is not that of adoration of a building or monument; rather, it should be understood that we are celebrating an important event in Nebraska's great history. During all of 1982 we shall be developing and participating in many forms of celebration--Statehood Day, grand opening of the 5th floor of this building, concerts, receptions, displays and art and ethnic festivals among many others. It is hoped that all of us will take time to share in some segment of this 50th anniversary celebration. This Capitol, were it not for the people of this state, would mean very little. It is only when one is mindful of the heritage of a great people and a great land that one can sense the true importance of the beautiful Nebraska Capitol Building. We are not honoring mortar and stone, but rather the principles for which that mortar and stone stand--the spirit of the people of Nebraska. Mr. President and colleagues, the Capitol does not belong to us in the Legislature--rather, pride of ownership is shared by the people of the 93 counties of this state inscribed