

April 16, 1982

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting his excellency, the Governor of the Great State of Nebraska.

SENATOR LAMB: The Governor of the State of Nebraska, Charles Thone.

GOVERNOR CHARLES THONE: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, as one veteran legislator said to me recently this has been the longest short session we had in quite awhile. This has been a tough one. I was over at Mead today where we accepted the deed to the Field Laboratory and one of the speakers there mentioned that he felt a little bit like being a petunia in an onion patch, like the old song. Well the last couple, three days around here your friendly Governor has kind of felt maybe like he has been an onion in the petunia patch. You know it is always harder to cut the budget than to increase it and we did a lot of cutting this year. My special acknowledgement goes to Speaker Dick Marvel, who I'm sure is right here with us tonight in spirit. Dick, we miss you and Oline and we are sure that you will soon be in fighting trim and we look forward to your return to the Legislature next January. Thanks to you, Acting Speaker Howard Lamb for your special cooperation. I would like to cite just a couple of the chairmen, I could go up and down the list. Maurice of course is leaving us, is the fine chairman of the Public Works Committee, other of the old veterans as I look around that won't be with us next time. We are going to miss you all. But, I would like to say a special thanks to the key committee chairmen of this particular economic session and that of course are the stalwarts of Revenue and Appropriations, Chairmen Cal Carsten and Jerry Warner. Of course a sincere thanks to each of you who worked so hard and sincerely for a better Nebraska. Let me make six quick points, the hour is late. By the way when I asked my good Cheyenne friend Bob Clark what to talk about he said, "Charley, I've heard you speak before why don't you talk about five or ten minutes and sit down and let us adjourn and get the heck out of here". So, I'll as usual follow your advise, Mr. Clark. Point number one: This years budget increase is one of the smallest in the recent history of Nebraska. Point number two: This is a year divisible by two, an election year, and silly charges, statements, and speeches are most rampant. The World Herald noted in a recent editorial, and believe me, I didn't cause the national and international recessions and as I recently stated the Falkland Islands crisis was not caused by me.