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questions raised about our state's future. There were some who asked: "What's wrong with Nebraska?" There were special sessions to cut the budgets, forcing programs to be eliminated, ideas to be put on hold, and promises re-evaluated. Today I am pleased to say that the State of the State is measurably improved from over a year ago and substantially stronger than it was when we began our work together in January of 1987. We are able to talk about "What is right with Nebraska!" The "Can't Do" has been replaced by the "Can Do," and, again, the whispers are being heard from the prairie. We have prosperity as we end this decade and renewed hope for an even greater future in the 1990's. The fact that we have made so much progress in so short a time is a tribute to the foresight and the political courage of this Legislature. Your enactment of landmark legislation in the field of economic development and your commitment to quality education at all levels in Nebraska have mapped a new course for our state, a course whose milestones are more and better jobs for all our people, increased educational opportunities for our students, and a renewed sense of optimism and confidence throughout the state. We can see and measure the success of our joint efforts in economic development: The commitment of well over \$2 billion of new capital investment and the promise of more than 18,000 new jobs. We can see and measure the improvements in education: significant increases in state aid to local school districts, and additional appropriations for our university and state colleges to make possible faculty salary adjustments and to finance important research activities. We can see and feel the spirit that abounds in Nebraskaland. Wherever I travel across this state, whether it is part of a Capital for a Day Program, a state college commencement, or ground breaking for a new plant, there is evidence that our people are more confident of the future, more secure in the belief in themselves, and more determined to work together to continue our progress. By working together we have given Nebraskans new hope for the future. From Atkinson to Aurora, from Beatrice to Broken Bow, from Lexington to Lincoln, and from Scottsbluff to South Sioux City communities are once again alive with activity created through legislation passed by this body. Let me share with you a few excerpts from letters received recently in my office. Jackie Sharp of Nebraska City Chamber of Commerce reports that the most recent quarterly sales were the highest in three years. Sales tax receipts were 25 percent above expectations. Twenty new or expanded business activities started the past year. Jackie wrote, "Nebraska City is definitely on the up swing. Our community has taken on such a