

Department of Agriculture for providing to each of you a half bushel basket here that is loaded with a variety of Nebraska products that we believe signify the contributions that Nebraska farmers, ranchers and processors have provided to the State of Nebraska and the amount of food, abundant food that we can produce in this state. As the note in your basket will indicate, Nebraska or American farmers and ranchers provide food for 114 people, both 92 in the United States and 22 individuals overseas. So we're a pretty resilient lot, and we have been able to produce an awful lot of food for...and quality food, I might add, to the American consumer. And, as you will find in the basket that now I believe has been delivered to each one of your offices, we have a variety of products that are grown in this state and processed in this state. And I think almost all of the products in this basket come from processing right here in Nebraska. So it's my pleasure and honor to recognize the men and women who contribute to production agriculture, to processing of agricultural products, and recognize that they do a tremendous good for our society. And Nebraska's economy is not solely dependent upon agriculture, obviously, but it is largely dependent upon the success and failure of agriculture. It's a \$7 billion industry to Nebraska, and that's by far and away our number one industry. And we take time today, for a short period of time, to recognize the contributions that those folks have made in production agriculture and processing of agricultural products. And I want to thank the Department of Agriculture for bringing the resolution to me and the Agriculture Committee, and obviously for the large number of items in this basket that show what fine products are produced right here in Nebraska.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion? Senator Coordsen, please.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise to support this amendment and commend Senator Johnson for his forethought in introducing it. While Senator Johnson was presenting this resolution I was reminded of a conversation that I had in Kempo (phonetic) Airport in Seoul, Korea a few years ago with a Korean gentleman who was involved in the food production system in that particular country. And it was interesting in context that we spend one day out of 365 here honoring our domestic food production system. Our conversation revolved around why it was that the Asian rim countries were so fiercely protective of their family farmers, their domestic food