

April 9, 1990

thing to do. You have been appreciated while you have been here. You will be missed when you leave. But, Senator Hannibal, you will be never forgotten for what you have contributed to your state and to each of us individually and for that we thank you a great deal. (Applause.)

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you. I have gone through a lot of firsts here and, by the way, it's the first time I have ever been able to stand here. This is kind of nice. I should be using Norm Krivosha's chair, I think, to stand up high. Frank, have you looked at your plaque? I wondered, is your name penciled in or are you really not running again or are you running again? It's very late but I did want to say a couple of things because it's my last chance and I want to say some thanks and I want to say some thanks to my family, first of all, because for the last eight years they have been totally supportive, my wife, my daughters, my brother, sister and their spouses, aunts, still watch me. They are some of the ones that watch on this and cousins, father and mother, helped me through the campaign and, more importantly than the campaign, they have been very supportive to me over the last eight years. And if it weren't for them, I would not be able to be here. Frank said a couple things that kind of I wanted to echo because when I go back to, as we all do, to our districts and talk with people I have always said, for, oh, probably the last five, six years and it's still true today that there are about three different things that were a big surprises to me that I have learned after coming down to the Legislature because I had been an outsider and not very involved in politics in any way until I...until I basically got here. But one of the surprises was that, as Frank said, the dedication and the competency of the staff, of the agency heads and, for that matter, most all of the state employees that we come in contact with. And I would certainly like to thank my staff. My goodness, I have my former staff person there too, my present aide, Lisa Metzger, Linda Nichol and my former aide, Mary Fisher, and my interns that I have had over the year. I appreciate their help, as Rod had said, and others have said already, that we aren't too much without the help and support that we have from them and they have taught me a lot. But also, as Frank has said, the legislative staff in general, the Fiscal Office, the Legislative Council staff and even the Pages, the menial tasks that they go through, the surprise was that we do have dedicated and competent people serving the State of Nebraska. And it's too often that we forget about that or we don't know about that when we're on the