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here, it's my very distinct pleasure to also share with you one of the finest public officials I have ever known. I think you will agree that the gentleman from Scottsbluff is one of the most calm and cool and collected and smooth individuals that has ever graced this presence. Bill Nichol has meant a great deal to the State of Nebraska, not only to the legislative branch of government but to the executive branch of government. I've known Bill for many, many years and have respected him greatly, as you respect him as well. As a colleague for, I believe probably 12 years as a member of this body, Bill, you served as Judiciary Chairman for what, four years? Four years. He has served us as Lieutenant Governor for the past four years, as the presiding officer of this Legislature in his very easygoing style. That's one of the things that has always impressed me about Bill is his ability to get along with everyone. And I have watched, as you have watched, Bill temper some potentially very explosive situations with his easygoing style. Bill, I want to ask you to come down at this point and present to you an absolutely gorgeous sculpture, you people contributed, each and everyone of you but you haven't seen it yet, an absolutely gorgeous piece of sculpture. Governor Nichol, on behalf of myself and the Nebraska Legislature, thank you very much. You and Ruth will be missed. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT NICHOL: Thank you. Thank you. Would you do me a favor and sit down, please. Thanks. No, the speech is not going to be that long, Senator Pirsch, but I do appreciate your sitting down a minute. It isn't often one gets to hear their obituary and it's more unusual when you get to hear it more than once. I heard it four years ago when you didn't know I was coming back, did you? I heard it again the other night when a presentation was made. So, hearing three of them, I wonder if people are trying to tell me something. But I want to recognize Ruth. Would you stand up. She's been great. Elveda, would you stand up. This is my right-hand man at the office. She does great. It's the people around you, I guess, that make you look good. But, looking at this group, I remember when I came here I was having a little problem with a fellow by the name of Terry Carpenter. And I remember, to this day, those members in this body that voted for me and helped me to get the seat because it did come down to the members of the Legislature voting as to who would have the seat. For an excruciating month went through this situation, sat where Senator Conway sits, so that's the seat if anybody will want the seat, that's it. It's kind of like being Chairman of Education Committee, you don't last very