

April 9, 1990

Hannibal. Would you senators please go to the Governor's office and escort the Governor to the Chamber. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mr. President, it's my pleasure to introduce to you the Governor of the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, the Governor of the State of Nebraska, Governor Kay A. Orr. (Applause.)

GOVERNOR KAY ORR: Thank you, Senators, thank you very much. Thank you. When considering my final words to you for this session, my thoughts turn to you as individuals, individuals and the way in which you apply yourself to the tasks that you take on, the task in this system of representative government in which we work, a system that does allow us to work and live in freedom. Thomas Paine and his friends valued liberty above all else and those revolutionary leaders knew that they must fight for it, speak out for it and work to preserve it. Hear these words of wisdom from the pen of Thomas Paine. Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it. Perhaps we get so focused on the issues before us that we forget the significance of the part that we play in preserving a system of government that is the greatest experiment in freedom in the history of the world. The freedom that we know and the choices that we have, the liberty that we enjoy, these are the dreams of the people in eastern Europe and Central America and the Pacific rim. Those are people who are defying oppressive systems of government to gain independence and to win the promises of freedom that they see in America and your day to day tasks, as members of the Legislature, take on an aura of even greater importance when viewed in that light. Too many take those freedoms for granted. You don't, you're here, doing your part to preserve and protect representative government. It's not an easy task. You do it at great personal sacrifice, long hours and difficult decisions and pressures from many sides, and you do your best to serve the people of your district and our state, making your contributions to preserve the blessings of freedom. And to those who are leaving this body and making their contributions in other ways, let me say thank you, personally, and on behalf of the people of the State of Nebraska. To Senators Gary Hannibal and John Weihsing and Rod Johnson and Frank Korshoj and Jim McFarland, thank you for four years of service to Nebraska. You have contributed to the quality of life enjoyed by the families of