

November 17, 1989      LB 1, 2, 7

SERGEANT AT ARMS:    Mr. President, presenting the Governor of Nebraska.

SPEAKER BARRETT: (Gavel.) Members of the Legislature, it's my pleasure to present the Governor of the State of Nebraska, the Honorable Kay Orr.

GOVERNOR KAY ORR:    Senators, thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. As we conclude this special session, let me say on behalf of Nebraskans, thank you. Thank you for your time. Thank you for your diligence and thank you for your determination to take this important step in protecting the families of our state. The legislation that you have passed provides needed protection for essential programs and services Nebraskans expect from our schools, our cities and our counties. The definitions now in LB 1 will give our Supreme Court an opportunity to pursue a different direction and prevent the loss of more than \$30 million in local government revenue this year. It maintains the exemptions already established for Nebraska agriculture and prevents Nebraska homeowners and small businesses from having to shoulder a larger share of local government operations. The provisions in LB 2 will eliminate the possibility of many businesses receiving millions of dollars in refunds that would have devastated school programs and drastically impacted local services. LB 7, according to an opinion from the Attorney General, may remove the basis for equalization relief with respect to this tax year and in the future. Combined, the legislation of the special session will prevent the disruption of family life in every community in Nebraska. I know and share your frustration in dealing with this issue. Together, our work must continue. Through the expanded response team and by listening to Nebraskans throughout Nebraska, we can develop an understanding that will determine the future of state tax policy. I remain optimistic about the future and, as Henry Ford once said, coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success. I wish you a joyous holiday season and I look forward to seeing you again in January. (Applause.)

SPEAKER BARRETT:    Thank you, Governor Orr. Will the Committee please escort the Governor from the Chamber. Thank you for being with us, Governor Orr. Mr. Clerk. The Chair recognizes Senator Dierks, please.

SENATOR DIERKS:    Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I would