

March 18, 1991

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Good morning and welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. This morning with us for the chaplain today we have Dr. Howard Dooley, who is the President of the, Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation from Omaha. Dr. Dooley.

DR. DOOLEY: (Prayer offered.)

SPEAKER BAACK: In recognition of National Women's History Month, we are going to be honoring our legislators, our women legislators. And this morning, to make a short presentation about a woman who has affected her life, is Senator Labedz. Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it's an honor and privilege to stand before you today, although it's rather late in life for me to find a role model, don't you think. But, anyway, I spent the weekend trying to decide which woman in history I would choose, if I were a lot younger, to be my role model. I thought of people like Mother Teresa, and Margaret Thatcher, from foreign countries many women. I thought of many women in government that have served for many, many years. I have thought strong about women in government, medical profession. And, as you would expect, I ended up with my mother. My mother was a widow when I was six years old. My father passed away in 1925. She had a very difficult task of raising 17 children. She did it with dignity and with courage and without any help from any government programs, and it was very difficult for her. But she taught us well, she taught us very, very well. And if you speak to any of my sisters, three of them are now in their nineties, four of them are in their eighties, and the rest of them are in their seventies, and only one, the baby, is in her late sixties. But she taught us that not only did she expect obedience from us, but she expected love and respect for one another. So we grew up respecting and loving each other. And until this day we're a very, very close family. And it wasn't too long ago that my children, whom I have tried very hard to give them my mother's philosophy of life, gave me a poem that I would like to read to you today. It was a plaque signed by every one of my children. They knew that the love and respect that I had for my mother was something that gave them part of their life throughout their whole life. And I would like to read you this poem today. No other love like a mother's love. A mother's love is something