

March 20, 1991

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. This morning, with us for the prayer this morning we have Lynn Froning who is from the St. Paul Methodist Church here in Lincoln. Dr. Froning.

DR. FRONING: (Prayer offered.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you (inaudible). In recognition of National Women's History Month, we...Senator Pirsch will now make a presentation about a significant woman in her life. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: The most significant woman, the woman who most enriched my life and was a stunning role model for me was my mother, Hilfrie Louise Lebeck McBride. The daughter of Swedish immigrants, Hilfrie could read and write Swedish and English fluently. She lived through the First World War in Sioux City when the Governor banned all foreign languages, maintained a victory garden in the Second World War and always was a fiercely loyal patriot of our country. My mother was born before electricity, telephone, cars, television, splitting the atom, space travel was dreamed of. And she always did express the desire to take the first commercial flight to the moon. While I was more often down in the basement working with my father than in the kitchen with my mother, I think she encouraged me because that was what she would have preferred, messing with my chemistry set, melting down and reforming lead soldiers and figures or just helping my dad. Hilfrie was a woman before her time. She was a voracious reader, a member of the Delphian Discussion Group and she was the one who led and discussed those discussions often turning into heated debate with my brother, the brain, and later to me on many subjects as religion and politics. She encouraged us in music. I could have a choice. I could practice the piano or wash dishes. Guess which I chose. She would...she wangled a violin for me when I decided that I was going to be a concert violinist. She encouraged her children to be the best they could be and have a faith and trust in God beyond all understanding. Most importantly, she believed and lived that faith. She was interested and encouraged her grandchildren and great grandchildren in their many different strengths and interests. My mother was the one on Hickory Street, as I grew up, who had time to play, "Mother may I", or "What time is it, old witch", or "Johnny, Johnny, may I cross