

June 5, 1991

the Supreme Court with the creation of an appellate court. We have helped to secure the future for generations of young Nebraskans and their parents through the Quality Child Care Act, a progressive effort to utilize federal and state resources. Every child in Nebraska who must be cared for by someone other than a family member deserves the opportunity to benefit from a quality child care experience that nurtures their development and prepares them for the future. We have brought increased accountability to the low-level radioactive waste disposal issue and we are working with study groups to address solid waste management and energy policy issues, but there is more yet to be done for the environment. We have positioned Nebraska to have a lottery to fund educational enhancement projects, to empower local schools to prepare our young people for the future and we have funded teacher salary enhancements and increased satellite technology throughout the statewide classroom situation and offerings as well of the educational telecommunications network, but yet there is more to be done for education. We have created a Rural Development Commission and a local option for economic development to help communities themselves empower to create and attract new jobs and growth, but there is more yet to be done for economic development. We have passed a budget, but not without vetoes and operating reductions across the board for the biennium and there is more to be done for the taxpayers, particularly after the overrides this evening. While we have made progress, we must make no mistake. The embers of the property tax dilemma are glowing and with a breath from the Supreme Court could be fanned into a wild fire that threatens to consume local governments to its very root, to its very roots. It is our responsibility as elected officials to fashion a solution to the property tax crisis which protects average rural and urban homeowners and middle income Nebraskans from an unfair tax burden and which treats all taxpayers fairly under the Constitution. We have discussed many options and even agreed upon a few and a few tonight, but the time is drawing near when we must all move forward to solve the property tax crisis so that local governments can continue to provide the services that Nebraskans need and demand. And so that the state government can survive beyond today's tax challenges and plan for the future, the future of our state with further progress on the fronts of enhancing education, protecting the environment and fostering economic development. For if we're unable to move Nebraska forward in these areas because of a deadlock in the tax situation, our state's progress toward the twenty-first century will indeed be crippled. Again, I appreciate your work on the