

October 2, 1992

Or, "I want to fund this program but the money isn't there." "This is a want to, not a have to." Or, "I rise to oppose this amendment, and this time I mean it." Or, "I don't want to really speak on this issue, Senator Chizek punched my button." Or, thanks to George for this one. "Not all of what once was you will be used by that great wild horse, some will pass on through for that is nature's course." Thank you George. Or, "We could have slid it by." But somebody had to ask the question, "Of course it is not germane, we send bills like that to the Governor all the time." Senator Haberman, I have many concerns about the bills that you send me, but germaneness is not one of them. Seriously, I am very pleased with the accomplishments of this session as you should be as well. We have agreed to a large extent on the cuts that I proposed and we have cut the budget by nearly \$100 million. You still have work to do, over \$60 million in additional cuts will be necessary next session to balance the budget through fiscal year 1995. We will also need to come up with an additional \$21 million as a result of the hospital medicaid lawsuit settlement announced today. And, we still have the specter of the Jaksha - Bahensky case waiting for a solution. But with the track record that you established this week, I am more confident than ever before that we will meet those challenges ahead. To Senator Baack, Mr. Speaker, thank you for keeping the lines of communication open and the session on track. Senator Moore and the Appropriations Committee, I want to thank each of you for your cooperation, your reasoned approach and your leadership this session. To Senators Lindsay and Wesely, who carried bills on my behalf, thank you for your leadership. To the chairs, to the members of other committee's, thank you for your thoughtful deliberations on the very difficult issues handed to you. And to all of you, thank you once again for your diligence, your hard work, and your willingness to make tough decisions on behalf of Nebraska citizens. To paraphrase Senator Robak, you ate together, you worked together, you trained together, you did everything but... lets just say you nearly did everything together. Levity aside, I know how difficult this session has been for each one of you, and for me as well. Decisions have been made that effect people's lives, their futures, the choices we have made are not humorous in any sense whatsoever, but sometimes humor will help us cope with difficult situations. I sincerely appreciate your efforts this week. Thank you very much and you will be able to make your 1:15 p.m. tee time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: I now recognize Speaker Baack for a point of