

November 12, 1992

needed in legislative redistricting and reenacting our new personal property tax system was necessary, you responded. When cutting the budget before the crisis struck was the right thing to do, you responded. When the Supreme Court dropped yet another tax mess back in your laps in the Bahensky case, you responded. You have a consistent record of meeting the challenges that we have faced together and that is commendable. These are not easy and they haven't been easy issues. The solutions are painful. Everyone felt the pain today, and I know you've been under tremendous pressure from those affected by your decisions. You've carefully considered the actions that you've taken and the impact on your constituents. You've searched your souls and, in my opinion, you've done the right thing again. You have my gratitude and that of our fellow Nebraskans. In particular today, I want to thank Speaker Baack for his cooperation and for keeping the session on schedule. I also want to thank Senators Hall, Landis, Baack and Warner for taking the lead in shepherding LB 1 through to final passage. I would also like to recognize the contributions not only in this session but throughout their entire careers of your colleagues who are leaving the Legislature. We'll miss the institutional memory of Senator Loran Schmit and he proved he's a class act; the environmental activism of Senator Spence Morrissey; the concern for humanity of Senators Arlene Nelson and Bernice Labeledz; the economic perspective of Senator Jerry Conway; the fiscal conservatism of Senators Elroy Hefner, Richard Peterson, Howard "Bye" Lamb, Emil Beyer and Lowell Johnson; the law and order perspective of "Shoot 'Em Up" Senator Jerry Chizek; and the agricultural knowledge of Senators Ed Schrock and Rod Johnson. And, finally, to our good friend, Senator Carson Rogers, I don't know whether to say hello or good-bye at this point but I can say, good luck, and I can also say I have a bit of experience with recounts and there's one thing for sure; it's not over till it's over. In spite of our diversity and differences, we've worked together to solve the problems facing our state and to hold the line on state spending. We've continued to provide Nebraskans the opportunities and quality services they demand and deserve. You've kept the best interests of all Nebraskans at heart and for that we sincerely thank you, each one of you. Each of you can be proud of your accomplishments this year. Even though we've met often, you know the challenges that remain and I look forward to tackling those challenges as we have this year together. Thank you very much and I will see most of you again in January and all of you again, I'm sure. Thank you.