

November 12, 1992

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Governor Nelson. Would the senators please be seated so we can proceed and I would ask Senator "Cap" Dierks to proceed forward. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body, I have the pleasure or semiplease, I guess, of presenting a plaque today to Senator Spence Morrissey. Before we enter the political arena, I think we tend to believe that great legislative debate consists of eloquent rhythmic statements and speeches. We think of orators who, as Senator Coordsen likes to say, can turn the flowery phrase. It doesn't take long to realize though that style is really no match for substance and there is nothing more admirable than a legislator who stands up for his people and for what he believes. Senator Spence Morrissey has been a fighter. He's been a battler. He's been an advocate for the little man. There are lyrics to an old Hoyt Axton song which apply to Spence very well, and it goes like this. "When I was a little baby my father said, hey, son, travel where you will and grow to be a man, but sing what must be sung, sing what must be sung." Spencer Morrissey, for years, for four years you have sang what must be sung, often in the face of tremendous opposition. You've been a great help to me. You've been a great help to the people I represent. I hope that you leave us with your head held high. You can be proud of what you've accomplished here and you will be missed, Spence. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, "Cap". I haven't spoke for seven days, so...and I wanted to speak at least once each day, so that's at least 35 minutes. You can start the clock. I appreciate what you said, "Cap", and I'm really proud of what I've done. I did what I came to do, what I said I would do. I'm most proud of the work we've done on the environment. In solid waste, I think we've built a really good vehicle, responsible environmental policy to move us forward. Now I'm kind of standing on the curb watching that vehicle get ready to move away and I'm not allowed to drive. I'm sure we'll find a competent driver in this body, but I really wanted to drive. We had some want ads on our desks this morning, selling off some old furniture and things we weren't going to need and I thought about running some myself. We need someone. We have a job opening for someone to protect the lottery money for education