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quite rancorous, and I believe it was Senator Patrick Daniel Moynihan who made the comment one day that academic politics are extremely cutthroat, and the reason for that is that because the stakes are so small. It is not the case here in the Legislature I don't think. The stakes are not small. When those of us that took our oath of office a few moments ago, and those of you that took it two years ago did so, you assumed a lot of abilities. There are a lot of things that are thrust upon this Legislature. We make decisions on how much money is taken from individuals out of their paycheck in taxes. We make decisions about how well our children are educated. We make decisions about how profitable a business can be, how well regulated it will be. We make decisions about protecting our natural resources and how efficient our agriculture sector can be. We make tremendously important decisions, and the thing we need to remember is we make those decisions differently than any other Legislature in the country. I've spent a fair amount of time in the last few years going to national meetings and talking to legislatures from around the country, and as we exchanged stories about what's gone on in our Legislature, I am really thankful that we have a nonpartisan Unicameral Legislature, because in other states when issues confront them, they see them as opportunities for partisan wrangling, for one-ups-man-ship, for deadlock, for gridlock. We, in Nebraska, when issues come to us, we see them as problems to be solved, and almost always we solve those problems. They are never to everyone's solution. Rarely are they things that everybody...that even one individual feels totally comfortable with, but we bring problems into this body and we solve them. I am concerned that we continue to do that, that we continue to view this institution as a problem-solving body and not one for personal agendas, for emphasizing differences. We need to continue to emphasize our similarities. I believe the election of the Speaker or whoever is in the Chair, whether it is George Coordsen or Ron Withem, there is an awesome responsibility on making that continue. There were times during the last several sessions when we came close to losing it. We can't allow that to happen. We are going to have a very big agenda before us this next session. We are going to have to work together. We are going to have to pledge to attack these as problems to be solved and not opportunities for individual advancement. I think I have shown you this last year what I can do and what I can't do as the Speaker. There is some things no Speaker can do. There are other things that can be done. I believe I demonstrated that I do have an understanding of the process and am able to facilitate that process. I