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legislation this committee handles and I do not ask for this responsibility lightly. You know I changed my mind to seek this position. I realized that these were the areas where I really wanted to spend my time and energy. Two areas are of special interest to me, the first is welfare reform. This past interim I was the only senator who attended every meeting of the Governor's Roundtable on Welfare Reform. I want to make sure we continue with legislation that is in the best interest for all Nebraskans. I am also interested in working on a vision for what we, as a state, want to do in the area of health care, especially in the area of rural health care. I know there are many other areas of concern for this that this committee hears and I make the commitment to you that I will study each of them. I want to make it clear that I did not decide to run against anyone but to seek the position. Senator Wesely has served in this position for ten years and I would not presume to be as knowledgeable as he is. I am offering you a choice and a change in the approach for this committee. I will be fair and open-minded chairperson and I would appreciate your vote. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Day. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. Fellow colleagues, I respectfully offer my name for election by this body to the chairman of Health and Human Services. It seems to me this morning that the most successfully elected are the most brief, so I will be very brief. And perhaps that's what we look for in a chairman, someone who does not have their own agenda, someone who does not pontificate but, indeed, listens well and takes action when necessary. I know that this committee covers a broad range of subject matter and there is a fresh wind, I believe, blowing across this country and I think Nebraska needs that fresh wind in that committee. And so I offer my name as chairman of that Health and Human Services Committee where we need to take more action on the welfare issue, on children, and the foster care system. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Are there any further nominations? Hearing none, the Chair would entertain a motion to close nominations. There is a motion to close nominations. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay. Nominations are closed. Would the senators please cast your ballots. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk please collect them. As we have three individuals running for this office, if