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convention to revise the Articles of Confederation. At that time, the balance of power between the states and the federal government was weighted heavily on the side of the states. They deliberated long and hard, but their efforts paid off. The members of the convention agreed new authority should be given to the federal government, and a new constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789. The challenges we face today are not unlike those faced by the members of that Constitutional Convention, some 200 years ago. The difference is that the balance of power in our time has swung in the opposite direction. Washington has nearly eliminated the states' ability to govern, the right that was established by the 10th Amendment of the United States Constitution. Those early leaders had a great love for their new nation. They were driven by the same intensity of mission that we feel, the same desire for a better life, the same sense of family, purpose and justice that drives us today. Most of all, we can be sure our forefathers had courage, courage to defy the status quo, to overcome criticism and misunderstanding, courage to forge a better life and a better way of leadership. In the past four years, I've seen that same kind of courage from the citizens of Nebraska and from their representatives in this Legislature. We have affected the lives of individual Nebraskans in a positive way. Our progress in technology is just one example among many. We are breaking new ground with distance learning and telecommunications. This use of technology brings Nebraskans closer together, helps us improve our quality of life through economic development, education and medicine. Doug Shadley of Indianola has used telecommunications to turn an idea for a new agricultural product into a profitable business venture in his hometown. Using Nebraska On-Line, Doug found the patent protection that he needed to move his idea from the drawing board to production in rural Nebraska. In central Nebraska, five schools have used distant learning to expand curriculum. Teachers from one school have taught students in all five to speak Japanese and Spanish. Not only that, the kids have become friends, not just rivals. In Ainsworth, George Botsford is using distance learning to help him overcome his physical challenge. Most importantly, through a communications link, he has received moral support from his peers and medical professionals across the state. As a result, he no longer fears he will have to leave his brother, Louie, and the town of his birth. For the sake of George, Doug, and the students in those five central schools, as well as for all Nebraskans, we had the courage to change government where it needed to be changed. We improved the financial condition of