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our state. We bolstered job training. We opened new markets for Nebraska products, and we continue to grow the economy of our state. Through it all, we've shown the courage to defy the status quo, courage to address the needs of the people, not the needs of government bureaucracy. And seeing this change makes me proud. Our victory is that we have made the leap from the comfort of status quo to courageous change. Our achievements of the past four years were capped by the unmistakable mandate of the people in November. It's a victory not so different from that of our remarkable Huskers in Miami. They rallied their strengths and realized their dreams. We, too, will continue to build on our strengths and realize our dreams for a number one Nebraska. Many of you have grown up in Nebraska, as I have. You know instinctively what it means to be Nebraskan. It means family values, it means hard work, it means practicality, responsible stewardship of the land and deep affection for our neighbors. The spirit of Nebraska includes as well the history and heritage that have brought us to this point. And all of us feel the spirit of Nebraska in parades and lemonade stands, in the commitment of our teachers and the energy of our young people, in the gleam in our children's eyes, in the grainfields of our family farms. These ideals are not new to us. Nebraska is one of the safest, healthiest, happiest and hard-working states in the nation. However, we cannot let down our guard. The challenges facing us as we approach the twenty-first century will overcome us if we are not prepared. We've made a good start. We're confronting, correcting the inefficiencies and deficiencies of government. Our fiscal house is in order. In many ways, we're living the dream established by those 13 states in 1789 as the foundation of our American way of life. To preserve the strong foundation we've built, we must draw on our courage. We must continue to tackle the challenges of government efficiency and unfunded federal and state mandates, that means changes in the way we've always done things. As Lieutenant Governor Robak has often said, "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." We must change. We will change. But those changes will be changes of common sense. George Gallup, the famous pollster, has said, "The common people of America display a quality of good common sense." Nowhere, more than in Nebraska, is common sense seen in the operation of individual lives. We run our businesses using common sense, we save our money for rainy days and we come to the aid of our neighbors without complaint because that's just good common sense in Nebraska. Today, we must use that common sense and our courage for a new kind of