

such a pleasure this morning to bring LR 85 to this legislative group. The resolution resolves that the Legislature recognizes and commends the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Department of English and the Center for Great Plains Studies for organizing a seminar, which happens this week on the University Campus at Lincoln, on aspects of the life of Willa Cather. Willa Cather, aside from her writing ability, is a shining example of the kind of people, young people who came to the university in the early days to get an education. The immigrants, who came to Nebraska, and particularly, she was born in Virginia, but then they came out to Nebraska, to Webster County, those people wanted their children to be educated, and they worked very hard on the farm, and they came down to Lincoln and to other places to try to get that education, and most of them worked all the time when they were going to classes. So, for me, that is the overriding reason that we honor them. They made a pathway for all of us to seek knowledge, to understand the world, and you remember, in 1895, in those years, our communications weren't like they are today. We did have the telegraph. But for them to make the sacrifices that they did to come... a lot of them came from western Nebraska, even further than from Red Cloud, to come and live in a range city. To them it was a big city when you come from someplace like Red Cloud or Davenport, or any of those little towns; Lincoln, even though it wasn't very big by today's standards, was a big city. If any of you are interested in taking part in any of the centennial celebration that is going on this week, the Willa Cather's University Days, A Centennial Celebration, it begins Thursday with a marathon reading of Cather texts, and the keynote talk in the evening, the Golden Years, Willa Cather's University by Robert Knoll, who is a professor emeritus, and he held the George Holmes (phonetic) Chair in the English Department, when he was teaching. Robert Knoll's name is legion in Nebraska as an English professor, along with all those other wonderful professors that we have at the English, along with the other sponsorship is the Center for Great Plains Studies, which is another jewel on the Lincoln campus. So I am just asking you this morning to support this resolution, and later in the week when the seminars continuing, if any of you want to go down for any of the events, I know if you just identify yourself as a senator from someplace in Nebraska, they will welcome you with open arms. Also, on my desk, I have a copy of the Sunday Journal-Star, which has this wonderful set of pictures and stories about Willa Cather, wonderful picture of her with Louise Pound. So if any of you would like to look at it, it is difficult to copy it and give it