

June 8, 1995

PRESIDENT ROBAK: All those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay. The motion passes. The Chair appoints Senators Bohlke, Lindsay, Hillman, Crosby and Cudaback to escort the Governor.

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: Madam Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your Committee now escorting the Governor of the great State of Nebraska, Ben Nelson.

SENATOR HALL: (Gavel.) Governor Nelson.

GOVERNOR NELSON: Madam President, Mr. Speaker, senators, my fellow Nebraskans, I'm here to read a proclamation commending the Legislature. It's been that long since sine die that you've forgotten. Yours isn't an easy job. Many of the issues that you've addressed during this session were extremely complex. Our perspective and at times our positions were bound to clash. However, in the end, we've been successful if we can say to the citizens of the State of Nebraska that we have done our best to meet the needs of Nebraskans from border to border. In the end, I believe we've made the lives of Nebraskans a little better. We put together a program of services for the developmentally disabled. We made the streets of Nebraska safer by passing the Safe Streets Act of 1995, in 1995. We funded more law enforcement and judicial resources. We passed the nationally recognized employment first welfare reform plan and gave Nebraskans in need a temporary hand up, not a permanent hand out. Last January, I asked you to help better educated, better trained citizens get better jobs. We have now legislation to put Nebraskans in the best position ever to grow, attract, and retain business. It's Nebraska business that will provide those jobs and the skilled workers to fill them. We improved the corporate tax structure to give us an edge when we compete for new and expanding businesses. We supported growth in Nebraska's ethanol industry. We took steps to contain special education costs and provided incentives for reorganization of school districts on a voluntary basis. We helped slow the growth of property taxes by establishing spending limits. Our greatest challenge has been holding the line on spending. We must continue to follow the example through of Nebraska families. We must set spending priorities and balance our check book. Congressional action will make this more difficult but we must