

Nebraska at Lincoln. It was my happy privilege to take two courses from Dr. Fred Luebke, who was at that time the Chair of the Center for Great Plains Studies, and the one course was the history of the Great Plains, and the other one was the history of Nebraska, and I learned so much as to where we all came from, how we got here. His, Dr. Luebke's long suit is ethnicity and he has written books about the ethnic groups in Nebraska, and how each one of them migrated and how each person, each group got here. So at the present time, the chairman is John Wunder and he just recently won a history honor for a book that he has published called retained by the People, a history of American Indians and the Bill of Rights. Later this week, there is a seminar on American politics, and Nebraska politics, in particular, beginning Thursday and going through Saturday, and some of us in the Legislature will participate on Friday and on Friday evening here in the East Chamber. One of the projects that the Center for Great Plains Studies is working on right now is to define the region of the Great Plains through projects, such as the Encyclopedia of the Great Plains that will provide a lasting resource on the history, geography, and culture of the Great Plains. I did bring with me today Dr. Frederick Luebke's new book that was published in 1995, The History of Nebraska. Any of you that might want to look at it, I will keep it here until the weekend, but I have... I just have to read one little part, and then I will stop and not take any more time. This is just, in the eyes of the citizens at the turn of the century, Lincoln stood out like an Athens among the other cities of importance in the West. And he goes on to say that Lincoln is to Nebraska what Madison is to Wisconsin or Washington, D.C. to the state, and was founded as the capital out of jealousy and rivalry with Omaha. Lincoln had the qualities of a small town grown large. Compared to Omaha, Lincoln seemed Protestant, Anglo-Saxon, clean and moral. Immigrants formed a significantly smaller proportion of its population. It had one of the highest concentrations of Methodists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists in the country. In Omaha, drunkenness, gambling, prostitution seemed more protected than protested, and in Lincoln, vice was much less apparent. I see Senator Hilgert is drinking to that. (Laughing) When I read that, I thought do we... our competition still goes on. Do things ever change? No. Senator Chambers, you are going to have to read this whole chapter I think. Thank you for listening to me, and thank you for supporting this resolution for the Center for Great Plains Studies. I do think it is a wonderful asset to the University, to Lincoln, and to