

April 18, 1996

kiss Herb. (Laughter) The...and let me tell you about a kid with a dream, about an eleven year old kid who sat up in that balcony, just like these kids are up here now, and looked down and had a dream of being a state senator. And a kid who then went to his first year of law school at the University of Nebraska and took his law books up there and studied and dreamed of being a senator. And I remember my first day in the...when I first got elected, walking the halls, absolutely no idea what was going on with, with Mike Loeffler, and I asked him, what do you do when you, when you reach your dream and you're twenty-nine years old? He said, you live it. And I've had that opportunity to, to live my dream. And I thank the people of the ninth, the Sunshine District, for that opportunity. And I thank each of you for helping make that dream more than even a eleven year old kid could imagine. I came in here as a naive, twenty-nine year old fresh-faced punk and I'm leaving now as a thirty-six year old, naive, fresh-faced punk, with gray hair. But what I am leaving here with is an education, not an education about the process, not an education just about government, but most importantly, I think, is an education about people, and about the people who serve in government, and about those people who've renewed my respect for government and returned me to those elementary school civic ideals...those civic ideals that, ideal view of government. I know there's people in here that, Senator Chambers, that I butt heads with often, Senator Warner, whom I didn't have a chance to work with too much until this year but whom at times didn't want to spend as much money as I did; Senator Witek and I, who I think are diametrically opposed; and Senator Landis and I, who disagree about beer. But the one thing that runs through each and every one of you, I believe, is that while our views may differ, I think we're all sincere about our views, and that's what I found which has been so refreshing to come here. Those views may disagree with ours, but we believe them. And that's something that I think it's, it's unfortunate that the public doesn't get to see more of, that the public doesn't get to see when we use the term politicians, they don't get to see the flesh and blood that's behind that term, that they don't get to see the emotion and the concern that those senators in Lincoln feel on a day-to-day basis, that they don't feel that knot in the stomach that comes when you know that a vote either way is going to hurt some people. It would be my wish that the public could see more of that, that they could see the commitment, that they could see the humanity, because I think they would be as impressed as I've

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