

April 18, 1996

PRESIDENT ROBAK: You heard the motion, all those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay. The motion carries and the Chair appoints the following individuals to escort the Governor: Senator Bernard-Stevens, Senator Dierks, Senator Hillman, Senator Janssen, and Senator Lindsay. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Madam President, your committee now escorting the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Ben Nelson.

GOVERNOR NELSON: Madam President, Mr. Speaker, senators of the Unicameral Legislature, and my fellow Nebraskans, in my State of the State address this past January, I spoke of the enormous challenges that were facing our state and I talked about how we, working together, could turn those challenges into opportunities for the people of the state of Nebraska. And today, three months later, I'm here on behalf of all Nebraskans to thank you for doing just that. If the father of the Unicameral, George W. Norris, were here today, seated in the balcony or here in our midst, I think he would be equally proud of what you've been able to accomplish in what is sometimes termed as a short session. I want to thank you as well for sustaining my vetoes and recognizing the importance of holding the line on spending and working to make our government more efficient. I commend Speaker Ron Withem for admirably filling a very tough role in this body. And, Senator, if you ever decide to become a trail boss, you can count me in for a recommendation. I think you've done an outstanding job. I'd like to commend Lieutenant Governor Robak for doing an admirable job as well and although I am hopeful that she'll be in another position next year. The committee chairs also played a major role in the success of this session. You all looked at the job ahead of you, you rolled up your sleeves, and together you went to work. And I'm sorry that some of you won't be around next year because that's the way...the choice that you've made. And we hope that the 1997 session will be equally as successful as the '96 session has been. I'm here today to tell you that every member of this body can look at the session with pride, from the seasoned veterans like Senator Warner, to our newest senator, Lee Klein, who saw his first priority bill, the Nebraska Partnership Project win passage. Senator, some times you just get lucky. The challenges were clear. Property taxes were out of control and taxpayers were demanding relief. Our Cash Reserve Fund needed to be rebuilt. Our health and human services bureaucracy needed