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Crosby, Senator Preister, Senator Dierks, Senator Engel, and Senator Quandahl--if you would please proceed to the back of the Chamber and escort the Governor. Madam Sergeant of Arms.

LYNNE HAAS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Mike Johanns.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: (Gavel) Members, Governor Mike Johanns.

GOVERNOR JOHANNNS: Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, our guests in the balcony and friends, 130 days ago I came before you on the second day of this legislative session, was sworn into office and delivered an inaugural address. Today I return on the eighty-ninth day of this session, the last day. I return with thoughts of gratitude for the many people who have made this session work so well. I would like to start by acknowledging some key staff people in the executive branch--Larry Bare, Lauren Hill, and Gerry Oligmueller--who have worked very hard with their staffs to make this session work for us. It's been a very good and productive session from my perspective as Governor. However, we were all saddened by the loss of a member of this body during the session, the very principled and respected Senator Stan Schellpeper. He will be missed and of course he will be remembered. Personally, I believe the fact that you are adjourning on the eighty-ninth day, a day early, is very symbolic of the good work done by this Unicameral and the very efficient manner that you have conducted your business with a very solid work ethic. I must tell you that as a first term Governor, my first year in office, I was extremely gratified at the working relationship that was created between the executive and the legislative branches of this state government, a working relationship that I believe can make all Nebraskans very proud. As you know, I forwarded a very simple agenda: less government, lowering taxes, protecting our families, and building our economy. I believe we've worked very, very well on that agenda. As I think back to my inaugural address, I asked the members then of the Legislature and, in fact, all of state government to join with me in a genuine and a sustained effort to control the growth in state spending. This session, together, we slowed spending growth for a two-year budget to the lowest level in less...in the last decade. I want