

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

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to be very candid for you or to you much of the credit for that effort belongs with the Appropriations Committee, chaired by Roger Wehrbein. They did outstanding work this session and, yet, I believe that they funded our priorities, from education to public safety, healthcare, protection for our environment, and investment in the infrastructure of this state. Together, over \$100 million was set aside for property tax relief over the next three years. I thank Senator Bob Wickersham for sticking to this effort and helping me in this regard. In addition, we increased funding for the homestead exemption, provided additional assistance to community colleges, and initiated significant state support of technology in our public schools. These actions all contribute to our commitment to reduce the property tax burden for Nebraskans. I'm proud of our efforts in the area of fiscal policy this session and I'm proud of your efforts. It was a good step in the right direction, and I look forward to working with you in the future to continue to fulfill the promise of spending restraint while funding the priorities for our citizens. The Legislature also acted to send three important anticrime measures to my desk. Together we've stiffened penalties for methamphetamine dealers, enhanced penalties for individuals who assist in the commission of a felony, and created the offense of criminal child enticement. Again, I take very little credit for that. I want to say thank you to Senator Kermit Brashear for his outstanding leadership in this area. And together we agreed to dozens of other key pieces of legislation that will impact the lives of Nebraskans, ranging from centralized child support collection to withdraw from the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact. Ladies and gentlemen, I tell you with great conviction today that this body has done good work over the last 89 days of this working session. Of course, there are challenges ahead and I look forward to working with you in the days and months and sessions to come to address those challenges together. Until you come back together again as a body in January, at the dawn of a new millennium, I bid you farewell and Godspeed, and I thank you for your good work and your commitment to our great state. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Members, if you'd please escort the Governor. Mr. Clerk.