

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

January 31, 2000 LB 175

of them putting on a front. Whether they're in school, in politics or anywhere else, the real person is never out there. Everybody is acting, everybody is trying to impress. And if you break through that thin veneer, you see there's not much depth there. And what is it that motivates Americans more than anything else? Fear, fear of not being accepted, fear of failure, fear of disapproval. So the one who can rise above that fear is the one who owns the others. If people cannot cut their eyes at you and make you behave, they don't own you. If they cannot make an ugly face and put you in line, they don't own you. If they cannot raise their voice and intimidate you, they don't own you. But when they combine those things together, the teacher intimidates the students at the university because they want that grade and everything else takes second place. They never stop to realize that the kind of person they are allowing themselves to be made into by the way they take low in a classroom is going to follow them through life. And that's why, despite all of the high-sounding things they say, those who write their little letters to the newspaper over there, or write their articles or whatever they do in the classroom, as students have always done, they don't do any of that when they get out of school. As they approach graduation fear and trembling takes over because they need a job now. They're out of the cocoon of the university, and they never learned how to stand on their own feet. They said those things that were approved, that were acceptable, and even when they became what they call little radicals, they never strayed beyond the lines of what they knew they could do and get away with. So everything was playacting and a game. They get out of school, they can't get a job, so they do other things. Some sell dope, some go into prostitution, some rob, and some just go away. But if the education system was generating all this creativity and bringing alive all these young spirits, what happens to them as soon as they step out of the door after graduation? Hundreds graduate every year and not all of them leave Nebraska. Where do they go and what do they do? They didn't get educated in school. They learned how to get a grade, they learned how to take a test and write what they thought the teacher wanted to hear in order to get a grade. But did they learn anything? No. Two years after they took that class, can you give them the same test and they'd pass it? No, because all they did was learned it by rote long enough to pass that test. In this country and this society