

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

March 30, 2000 LB 26

unless they said "please". If they said "gimme" this, or "gimme" that, they didn't get anything. And the first few days a lot of the students in high school left the lunch room without eating, because they, by golly, wouldn't do that. And their parents hadn't taught them to do that. Well this has been several years ago, and has spread through the system. And I served breakfast and there was a room full of second and third graders, as I believe, and they all said, when their turn came to be served, "please may I have", and when they were served they all said "thank you", and they took their tray to the table and they had whatever it was. There was a selection that they could have, whatever they were hungry for at that point in time. And they ate whatever it was they wanted to eat; had to wait until the last person who was done had eaten, and then they had to clear the table, and then they returned to their seats, and then there was...they also had picked up a little number, and the adults who worked in food service in that school collected fast food prizes, you know, what they give for youngsters meals and that sort of thing, and there was an award. So properly structured, this is one of the best doggone nickels that you'll ever find. It doesn't...it doesn't exist in very many schools and it doesn't exist in the manner, I think, that it does in that school. But there are all sorts of opportunities for education. And I have to tell you folks, if the parents are not going to be the guiding light that gives children the social tools to be acceptable citizens, we have an opportunity in this environment to in fact, along with either lunch or dinner, to do table manners, to do politeness, one to another, in addition to the nutrition and the learning of the food groups and all of those things that go along with a proper thing. So I have to tell you that even if this grows into a program that is in every school in the state of Nebraska, that every youngster has access to, I think it would be money of mine that would be well spent because...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...apparently this is not happening in our grandchildren as a group of society. If our children aren't going to teach their children, then I guess it's the responsibility of grandparents to help to insure that to happen. Thank you, Mr. President.