

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

April 12, 2000

body that we will miss. Maybe what makes Jerry such a good senator is that he listens to his constituents, both those he agrees with and those with whom he disagrees, and I have it on good authority that he returns all calls to constituents, whether they agree with him or whether they don't agree with him. Because Jerry's focus has been on constituents, he's focused on small schools, on farms and rural concerns. Jerry's legislative achievements, which I think he's very proud of, is clarifying motor vehicle light requirements, adding Howard County to the brand inspection area, implementing motor carrier safety reviews by the State Patrol Carrier Enforcement Division, and implementing an annual firearms proficiency test for all law enforcement officers. Jerry was with the first round of zoning battles with the large hog operations. Started up in 1998. Jerry didn't get what he wanted in 1998, but he's persistent and in 1999 we adopted more interim zoning and I think Jerry was a part of that. He also started legislative initiatives to give Nebraskans access to alternative medicine. Jerry is probably proudest of two of the bills he has sponsored--the law to make all state buildings smoke free, and, yes, my first year in here, if the afternoons got long there were people lighting up their stogies. I don't miss that part of the Legislature, by the way. And he's also proud of the law that...preventing all law enforcement agencies from setting ticket quotas. I'll miss Jerry Schmitt, I know many of you will also. He is a friend. And, as a fellow legislator, I think I speak for the entire body in saying farewell to Jerry, a colleague who has served this body with a sense of balance, good humor and common sense. And I think Jerry's district will miss him also. Thank you for being a part of this legislative body, Jerry. Nebraska will miss you. (Applause)

SENATOR SCHMITT: Everybody asked me if I was going to get emotional today. Well, I'm going to try not to, but I know I'm going to miss you. I've got a lot of memories of this place, even before I was seated in the Legislature. I can remember when I wore blue and was up there watching over this place from higher up. I could look down on you then, see, I was up there in a good spot. I can remember defending old Senator Kristensen out there when he was in the Transportation Committee when he was fighting the wars with the Pearl Harbor survivors. That was interesting. We go back a long ways, but I'm going to miss all