

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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really known DiAnna very well before that, but I got to know her during the campaign and learned of her love for government and how it works and that it works well. And I do appreciate the plaque so much. I would have rather had the money for Sheldon and Centennial Mall (laughter) but I'll accept the plaque. And it has...this is different. You know, we do...we get a lot of plaques, Ardyce and I have discussed that, but this one has my picture. I hope yours has your picture. That's really nice. It's been a wonderful 12 years and I want to say first about my staff. C.K. Duryea is still with me. Jane Goodding came in and started working after Dorothy David died, so I'm just pleased, and we're going to have...Nichole is going to help us this summer and we had Sarah Newell last summer to fill in so we could keep our office going. I'm always grateful to the staff, and I made my little speech about the staff earlier so I think you all know how I feel. I'll probably miss the staff a lot more than I'll miss the Legislature (laughter) because I got to know a lot of them and I got to...I found some friends that will still be friends. But what I want to say to you today is this. I have a cup that I use every day that says carpe diem--seize the day--and that motto for me is...what it means to me, and I have one other little...little quotation that I'll give you before I finish, is that each day gives us our challenges, it gives us our opportunities to do the things that we think we should do to make the world and Nebraska a better place, a better place for you and me and for our families and for the people that we know. Back in the seventies, there was a song called "MacArthur Park", some of you will remember, and the words from that song...it's kind of a strange song, but the words from it that always stick in my mind are these: someone left that cake out in the rain. I don't know if I can take it because it took so long to make, and I'll never find that recipe again. Think about that, my friends. Today's recipe will be gone tomorrow. This is your opportunity to make this day a good one, and I try very hard to do that in my own life. It's not always easy. But I do thank you very much for your unfailing courtesy and kindness to me, and especially this past two years when Bob was leaving us. I know each one of you knew how difficult that was for...and it was difficult for you because you knew him too. And I love that story that DiAnna told because, oh, up to the last six months before he went he still was noticing maybe what I wore and that kind of thing, so he was