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SENATOR BROMM: I am in order, Mr. Lieutenant Governor? (Laugh)

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: I think so.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. Mr. Lieutenant Governor and fellow senators, it's my privilege to stand and ask for your support for the position of Speaker of this Legislature. I find it still somewhat overwhelming to ask you to do this. You may or may not know that my background comes from about four miles south of Craig, Nebraska, where I grew up on a farm and was very much against participating in public speaking and things like that until I was forced to do so by some very good teachers and principals of the school that I attended. Be that as it may, it has been a very interesting and challenging ten years that I've had the chance to be here, and I look very...I look forward to the chance to try to serve you again. I'd turn back the clock just slightly to July of last year when this position became open and our good friend and very capable Speaker, Senator Kristensen, left the Legislature and we were needing to replace someone in that position, and I asked for your support and I received it, and I did promise to do the best that I could to fulfill that responsibility. And I think together, with great help from a very capable staff that I was fortunate enough to have and the Clerk and his staff and all of you and your cooperation, we made it through, which was a very tough session. We followed up with another unexpected, I believe, second special session of the year being in November when we dealt with another very controversial issue, and that was death penalty related. And, again, with some very great work by this body and the committees involved and the committee Chairs, we made it through that session and I think we did what we had to do. We're now embarking on another regular session, which many of called and media have called and are referring to this as a very daunting task and somewhat different than most of the regular sessions that I think a lot of us have gone through because there's such a challenging financial situation that we have here. Again, each session is unique in my experience here. Each session takes on its own characteristics, and that will be the case again. Nothing is totally predictable and I recognize that, and for that reason one of the things that I think that I