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come under the idea of rural development. And as agriculture goes in rural Nebraska, so does rural development, and I think in addition to focusing on the direct issues of property taxes, of focusing on the availability of quality and quantity of water, I think we have an opportunity in the Ag Committee to begin to look at other opportunities that we can do to fill a role in the state of Nebraska in the regards of rural development. We have an opportunity to lead in that area, but most importantly we also have an opportunity to follow, because we have a lot of rural communities that have been successful. And it would be my hope, as the Chairman of your Agriculture Committee, to further facilitate those discussions and to make sure that we have an opportunity in the state of Nebraska to see rural Nebraska and rural agriculture grow. So, with that, I thank you for your time. I thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate your support and I will look forward also to introducing you to my lovely new wife, Cortney, throughout the rest of this legislative session. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares that the nominations are closed. You have the ballots before you. Please write the names of the individual you are voting for. The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk will collect the ballots. At this time I select a committee of three to come forward, tabulate the votes. The committee of three are Senator Bourne, Senator Ray Janssen, and Senator Price. Will the three of you please come forward after you've voted. The balloting is complete and, Senator Kremer, you have been elected Chair of the Agriculture Committee. Congratulations, Senator Kremer. We will now proceed to the election of the Chair of the Appropriations Committee. The Chair would recognize Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'll be fairly brief this morning. I don't really intend to dwell on the situation in Nebraska. Suffice it to say, we're in challenging times. In many ways, we are probably going to be in defining times for the future of Nebraska over the next few years. It's a daunting task, and sometimes maybe I have second thoughts about offering myself to help move us forward. But I