

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

January 8, 2003

the last few years have been a joy to work with. They really have. We've had several controversial discussions within the committee, but we always felt we dealt with them in a fair way, and moved on them efficiently. And with that, I would submit my name to you for the Chair of this committee, which I would greatly appreciate your vote. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair would recognize Senator Cudaback for a motion.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Janssen.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. The motion before you is to cease nominations and declare Senator Ray Janssen Chair of the General Affairs Committee by acclamation. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Janssen. We will now proceed to the election of the Chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. The Chair would recognize Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Four years ago, I came here with a great deal of respect for the Legislature and the legislative process. And that respect has increased. Four years on the Government Committee, two years as Vice Chair, the last two years, has been a fantastic experience and opportunity. I think back, about 18 years ago I think it was, when a school teacher said, we're going to take a trip to Lincoln and observe state government. I'd appreciate it if you would bring your best clothing. And we're going to have some fund-raisers, we're going to have some bake sales, a chili feed. And throughout that entire process, it gave me an incredible respect, and a respect not only for the process and the institution, but to not take anything for granted. We couldn't use school funds to take a field trip 415 miles away from the rural Class I school district, with six students. But there are so many things that I have learned since then...before then, too...but since then. And after graduating from college, I went back home, so to speak, and moved out on my own, of course. But I ran for city council, local government, another incredible