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FLOOR DEBATE

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conclusion, I would just say what so many who have come before me have said, because of all the great concern that we have for infrastructure and safety that comes before this committee, but because of what all of you seek in a chair of all the other committees that you've elected, that I would assure you and pledge to you that I would listen, that I would be fair, and that I would work hard. And I would appreciate your support for chairmanship of this committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares that nominations are closed. You have the ballots before you. Please write the name of the individual that you are voting for. The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk will collect the ballots. I would announce that it is the practice, custom, and tradition of this body in a three-way race, if one senator does not receive 25 votes, there will be a second ballot with the person receiving the lowest number of votes dropped from that ballot. At this time I select a committee of three to come forward to tabulate the votes. Those senators are Senator Engel, Senator Jim Jensen, and Senator Stuhr. When the three of you have finished voting, please come forward. The results of the balloting are as follows: Senator Baker, 21 votes; Senator Thompson, 16 votes; Senator Bourne 11 votes. There will be a second ballot between Senator Baker and Senator Thompson. I would announce again that the committee of three to come forward to tabulate the votes will be Senator Engel, Senator Jensen, and Senator Stuhr. And please come forward after you've voted. The balloting is complete. Senator Baker has received 25 votes and has been elected Chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. Congratulations, Senator Baker. We will now proceed to the election of the Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee. The Chair would recognize Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the body, I simply want to place my name as Chairman of the Urban Affairs Committee, the last committee of the standing committees on the list. And Urban Affairs Committee deals with cities. And another issue that we deal with is natural gas that's furnished to cities. We had a study done in 2001 that was sponsored by the Legislature. We...the citizens of the state