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Address the Honorable Mike Johanns. (Applause)

GOVERNOR MIKE JOHANNNS: Thank you very much. Thank you Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you very much. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chief Justice, members of the Legislature, members of the court, distinguished guests, family and friends, I am humbled and honored to stand before you today and to take the oath of office for a second term as Nebraska's 38th Governor. Four years ago, in my first Inaugural Address, I referred to the words of a former Nebraska Governor, William A. Poynter, who addressed the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Nebraska Legislature in 1899. Governor Poynter said, "We recognize that the primary power rests in the hands of the people and that this, their will, should be considered supreme. Partisanship may be bitter before election, but the will of the people having been expressed, citizenship should rise above partisanship. It is my most sincere desire that we shall cooperate for the best interests of our state." Governor Poynter's address reflects the spirit of then and the spirit of now. The legislative and executive branches of government can be more effective working toward a common purpose than we could ever hope to be working at cross-purposes. In this session, there will be many difficult choices and sacrifices made by each of us and by every Nebraskan. As we proceed, we must approach our discussions and our debates and our challenges with the civility that Nebraskans have come to expect from their leaders. That's not to say that there won't be disagreements; there have been in the past. But we have accomplished so much in four years, leaving me optimistic about this session and the coming four years. In 1999, my administration began with a five-point agenda based on priorities set by Nebraskans: tax relief, less government, a strong statewide economy, protecting families, and ensuring the health, safety and success of our children. Those priorities will continue. The journey I began four years ago has spanned now thousands of miles as I've traveled to every corner of the state. Along the way, I've become acquainted with thousands of our citizens who have shared with me their hopes for the future, their concerns about the present, and their fond memories of the past. I've been reminded over and over again that the pioneer spirit that Willa Cather detailed in her books still exists amongst Nebraskans, and that our heritage is