

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

April 15, 2004

four children. Chip and Pam have provided opportunity for four tremendous young people whose opportunity theretofore was, at best, problematic. There can't be a more important contribution. I salute them. (Applause)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Maxwell, would you come...Senator Maxwell, come forward, please. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I, in just review, it was my idea to invite him up, wasn't it, Mr. Clerk? (Laughter) When the Clerk asked me, would you like to invite someone to send you off, I thought, who will be most delighted by my departure? (Laughter) And obviously I chose correctly. Actually, that kind of banter, that kind of relationship is one of the things that I enjoy most about the Legislature. We disagree sometimes, sometimes passionately, but in general it is never personal. It is a live and let live spirit. Some of the people that I have found most helpful and most enjoyable in this body are people with whom I tend to disagree on the issues. As I have thrashed around in school finance, my most willing and most accommodating consultant has been Ron Raikes: If you're going to do this maybe you need to account for this, or maybe you want to do that; never refused a question. And in fact, everybody in here at some time has answered a question of mine or has offered a word of timely advice or encouragement. I think that attitude prevails in here because we all know deep down this body is composed of 49 people who really believe they're acting in the best interest of Nebraska. We really care about the state and its people. We do hit some rough patches sometimes in floor debate, but in general this is a very invigorating, a very ennobling atmosphere in which to work, and I'll miss that very much. Now for the academy awards part of the speech, more times than I can count I have heard from people in my district and outside my district about how helpful and courteous and professional my staff is. Patty Wade and Sherrie Geier have been relentless in their pursuit of the never ending task of making me look good, and only they know how truly challenging that task is. They have been relentlessly competent and cheerful in keeping me organized and on schedule. They made it a pleasure to come into the office day in and day out, and I thank them. I want to thank Nancy Thompson and Pat Bourne and