

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

April 15, 2004

here. Eight years later I am just as happy to leave. (Laughter) I caught myself just the other day starting to smile about something (laughter) and I reflected, and this is courtesy of Dwite Pedersen, I'm getting to that point where broadness of mind and narrowness of waist are changing places and it's time to go home. I have really appreciated the opportunity serve here. I have met people that I admire greatly. And I'll just say one other thing. No one knows how badly I would perform if I did not have an absolutely great staff, and I have been blessed with having wonderful people to work with the entire eight years. I appreciate it. Thank you very much. (Applause)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Gene Tyson. And thank you, Senator Jensen, for introducing Senator Tyson. Senator Carol Hudkins, come forward, please.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Well, I'm here today to honor one of our cowboys, Jim Jones. Some cowboys are all hat and no cattle, but not Jim. He is, in fact, a working cowboy. Some senators have even found themselves out on Jim and Pat's ranch during branding time, and they even pitched in to help, city shoes and all. Jim has sometimes been called "Deacon" Jones on the floor because of the straight-arrow way he looks at things. We would all do well to walk in as straight a line. Jim's family and mine go way back, but I had not met him until we came into the Legislature together at the same time, in 1993, as part of a herd of 14 brand-spanking-new senators. My grandparents were friends and neighbors of the Joneses, and they attended the same church, and my grandmother even did Pat's hair. Jim originally got his...and the Governor took half of my material. Jim originally got his name on the ballot in 1992 by petition. He was urged to run because the only other person running at the time did not fit the mold of what a rural Sandhills senator should be. The petition practice was accomplished in only seven days before the deadline for filing. When the ballots were all counted, Jim had won with 60 percent of the ballot. In 1966 (sic) he was unopposed, and in 2000 there was a write-in candidate in the final three days before the general election, but we all know how that race turned out. The 43rd Legislative District, Jim's district, is the largest district in the state in that it contains parts of 13 counties. My staff looked it up and it's