

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

April 15, 2004

even larger than 10 other individual states. In his 12 years of service, Jim wore out three cars. And before the redistricting in 2000, the western edge of his district was further from his home at Eddyville than Lincoln is. In the future, what will we think of when we think of Senator Jones, besides his cowboy hat? Senator Jones has always done what was best for agriculture, but he has recognized and supported urban issues as well. With credit to my staff who researched the last 12 years, Jim will be known for, among other things, his bills on animals. Who can forget the raccoons in the silage pile, composting of hogs, including sheep milk in the Nebraska pasteurized milk law, and changing liability at equine events? We can also thank Jim for attempting to help young people get started in farming. Because of his perseverance, land that is owned by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission now pays a fair amount for property tax. He was also instrumental in forcing the Board of Educational Lands and Funds to sell some of their holdings to get the ground back into private ownership and back on the tax rolls. Jim has decided to retire because there are other things he still wants to do. He said that if he were elected to another year...another four-year term, he would be 77 years old when he left the Legislature. With this year's retirees, we will be losing the oldest member, the second oldest, and the fifth and sixth oldest members. Next session we will be a younger and, with certain exceptions, a much better looking group. (Laughter) Jim, if we look half as good as you do when we are your age now, we will all be happy. Jim and Pat have purchased a motor home in order to see more of their country, and also to take more time to spoil their grandchildren. They will still be on the ranch, but they'll be doing fun things that retirees look forward to doing. Senator Jones, it's time to take off your tie and your western jacket, clean out your office and take all your mementos home, put on your jeans, your hat and your boots, and as you ride off into the sunset, either on your horse or in your motor home, via condios, you have made Nebraska a better place to live because you served in the Legislature. We're going to miss you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jones, come forward, please.
(Applause) Senator Jones.