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into this. I didn't even dream I was going to be a senator because at the time I run, well, there was five on the agenda and...to run and I wasn't one of them. I went up in front and introduced all of them at a forum and all five of them sitting there, and I came down here and none of them did, so they was kind of concerned what was going on. But anyway, Carol, again, I want to thank you for them remarks and I really appreciate serving with each one of you and I accept this reward with honor. Thank you. (Applause)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jim Jones. Thank you, Senator Hudkins, for introducing Senator Jones. Senator Wehrbein, would you come forward, please?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, it's my...it's my privilege to say some fond words of farewell for Senator Floyd Vrtiska. Floyd has spent lots and lots of years in community service. This is only really part of his lifetime service to his community, particularly in southeast Nebraska and also statewide, being president of NACO and other organizations like that. But particularly the last 12 years here in the Capitol have been a strong contribution to the whole state and, once again, to his community and to southeast Nebraska. Floyd sat in front of me for a few years and I don't know whether I spit or what or something, but the next thing I knew he'd left, gone over here to the far side. But we've had a close friendship even before we came...he came in here, and he's been a strong supporter for rural Nebraska. He's been a strong supporter for his district, in case you didn't know. Richardson County has a lot to thank him for. There's this little college called Peru State down there. I don't know whether you've heard of it. If you haven't, talk to Floyd about that. But Floyd has been a wonderful supporter of Peru State. In fact, this afternoon there's a dedication at 4:00 for some of the buildings that have been renovated down there, and Floyd was heavily responsible for that. In addition, he also has the Tecumseh prison in his district. But he's also been a strong advocate for rural development. If you remember, he had LB 144, which was a rural development bill that is working out quite successfully, and I think Floyd can be very proud that he has done that. By the way, State Fair, which we just handled a few hours ago, is been