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in North Platte for eight years, and that was a very enriching experience. So when I came down here to the Legislature eight years ago, I did like most of you did, the new members. You say, now what's my background; what committee should I try and be on? So I checked those off dutifully, thinking of my background, and shortly after that I was called by the Committee on Committees from our caucus and said, you know, we'd like you to be on the Appropriations Committee. Well, that wasn't even number four on my list at the time, but I said, if that's what you want me to do, I will do it. And it's been a great experience to be on the Appropriations Committee, obviously, or I wouldn't have served on it for eight years, and it's given me an opportunity to touch into the various areas that really constitute the operations of this state. We have a great state. We had so many problems in the last three years in connection with revenue that we had to drastically reduce some of the expenditures that we had, and that troubled us greatly because at times you felt like you were going to the committee seeing what you could do to least damage the state of Nebraska with the dollars that you had, and that's not too good a feeling that you know that what you're doing is going to impact people in many ways. We have been very fortunate to have a very good committee, and that committee has worked diligently to continue the forceful operation of state government in this state, and I feel that they are all entitled to your condolences...no, their credit for having served on the Appropriations Committee. It's a very difficult committee to serve on because, as you...we go through the legislative process and about halfway through we spend mornings in a committee and then...or mornings in the legislative session and then the afternoon in committees, and then after awhile we go all day on the floor, but then the Appropriations Committee has to continue to meet after the floor debate. So that's when things start to fall together. But none of what we have done in the past three years could have been done and accomplished without the help of the Legislature. You have been very supportive of the actions that we have taken. And it certainly isn't a one-person committee at all. It's a nine-person committee, everybody working very hard. And I think we're blessed with that committee. So I feel that it's...I've had the experience. I've served eight years on the Appropriations Committee, the last six of which were in the area