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FLOOR DEBATE

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open and fair than it has perhaps ever been. So I respectfully ask for your support and your vote.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Are there further nominations? Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the nominations are closed. Each member will find at their place a pad of plain white notepaper for the purpose of voting by written ballot for the Chair of the Appropriations Committee. Please do so at this time. The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk will pass among you and gather the ballots. Thank you. At this time, the Chair would designate Senators Cornett, Langemeier, and Flood as the Teller Committee for the purpose of tallying the ballots, and ask you to come forward and do so, please. The results are that Senator Don Pederson has received 27 votes; Senator Roger Wehrbein, 22 votes. Senator Don Pederson is elected. We now proceed to open the floor for nominations for Chair of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I enter my name for the nomination of Chair of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. When beginning a new endeavor, one must have a vision of what has to be accomplished. My vision for the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee is to preserve and build upon the foundation established by previous leaders. A healthy business environment and consumer protection for all Nebraskans should be reflected in the policies that the committee pursues. I offer you the statewide perspective and the experience to accomplish this vision. Nebraska is the home headquarters for a number of worldwide banking and insurance corporations, and we should continue to attract investment to Nebraska from global, as well as national, statewide, and hometown businesses. We must monitor and promote our assets to draw corporate headquarters in the insurance and banking industries. The past several years have seen many changes in the banking industry, and we can count on more changes in the future. Change brings challenges. Many bank mergers have taken place in Nebraska. Local ownership of banks is decreasing and locally-owned credit unions and savings and loan associations are expanding. In some rural areas, credit unions are the major lending institutions. Rules that govern