

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

January 5, 2005

banks and credit unions will be an issue. Electronic banking is no longer a possibility; it's a reality. The technology that drives changes demands our vigilance so that we may be alert to its problems, as well as its benefits. We will be called upon to make informed decisions as to how the consumers' business will best be served. We have very capable public servants in the Departments of Insurance, and Banking. As Chair, I would pledge to work closely and effectively with those agencies to ensure that the Legislature's policies are implemented. The committee's subject matter also includes the Uniform Commercial Codes, partnerships, corporations, real estate, commercial development, public accountancy, trade and exports, as well as trusts, warranties, franchises, and mortgage financing. My service on the committee for the past two years has given me a good grasp of these issues. Through owning and operating a ranch business for 50 years, I have worked extensively with the banking, insurance, and real estate industries. Operating a successful agricultural business requires comprehensive knowledge of crop and livestock insurance, liability insurance, real estate and business trusts, operating loans, capital expansion loans, certificates of deposits, and checking services. If you're fortunate enough to enjoy success in ranching, you even get to know about estate planning. These are all tools of the trade that I'm familiar with. I'm also familiar with the importance of sound public service. I understand that the trust given to us by the public must be used with care and respect. In addition to my two years of service in the Legislature, I have served as a school board member and as a rural electric board member. These elected offices taught me the importance of protecting the public's trust and gave me a good background from which to serve the Legislature. As a member of the Legislature, I have seen the importance of credibility and positive public relations. A Chair of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee can achieve both by guiding the committee in a constructive manner. I am in favor of committees having hearings statewide, such as Senator Schrock conducts with the Natural Resources Committees. These hearings allow a large number of citizens to be involved with state government and become acquainted with senators. This past summer, at my suggestion, the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee journeyed to Chadron and conducted a hearing on