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April 12, 2006

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Good morning. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. Our acting chaplain this morning is Senator Smith, from the 48th District. Senator, please.

SENATOR SMITH: (Prayer offered.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith, for doing that for us. We appreciate it. I call the fifty-ninth day of the Ninety-Ninth Legislature, Second Session, to order. Senators, please record your presence. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker, if you wish to be recognized, you are.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Mr. President, thank you. Good morning, all, members. Mr. President, would you rise where you sit. Would you stand up, please. I'd like the body to join me in expressing our affection for and appreciation of Mr. President, Senator Cudaback, on this, his birthday, and...just a minute. I am told that he is serving free ice cream in the senators' lounge. (Laughter) (Applause)

SENATOR CUDABACK: It's not from the Easter Bunny; it's Blue Bunny. Thank you. I appreciate that. You didn't have to do that. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, corrections for the Journal? I'm kind of shook up, here.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, there are no corrections this morning.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Messages, reports, or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: I have none at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: We now go to legislative confirmation reports. Senator Stuhr, Chairperson of the Nebraska Retirement Systems, you're recognized to open. (Legislative Journal