

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
January 07, 2015

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PRESIDENT NELSON PRESIDING

PRESIDENT NELSON: GOOD MORNING. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE FIRST DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR THE DAY IS SENATOR DAVIS. PLEASE RISE.

SENATOR DAVIS: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR DAVIS. WE WILL NOW HAVE THE PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS FROM THE NEBRASKA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, MEMBERS OF THE GUARD. PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE III, SECTION 10, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION, OF THE LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA ASSEMBLED IN THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER OF THE STATE CAPITOL, AT THIS HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015, IS NOW CALLED TO ORDER. MR. CLERK, WILL YOU PLEASE CALL THE ROLL FOR PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING A QUORUM.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS, WHEN YOU HEAR YOUR NAME CALLED, PLEASE RESPOND WITH AN AYE, PRESENT, OR HERE. (ROLL READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: SENATOR CHAMBERS, I DID...SENATOR CHAMBERS: PRESENT. MR. PRESIDENT, I DO HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY OFFICERS. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR KRIST.

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, CHAIR. GOOD MORNING. I MOVE TO APPOINT MR. PATRICK J. O'DONNELL AS TEMPORARY CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE AND MR. RON WITKOWSKI AS TEMPORARY SERGEANT AT ARMS.

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PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY OFFICERS. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NO. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK, RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT LETTERS.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE A SERIES OF RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT LETTERS. THE FIRST IS A RESIGNATION LETTER SUBMITTED FROM LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR LAVON HEIDEMANN DATED SEPTEMBER 9. I HAVE A SECOND RESIGNATION LETTER FROM SENATOR JOHN NELSON, AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE, DATED SEPTEMBER 29. PURSUANT TO THAT RESIGNATION, I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT LETTER FROM GOVERNOR HEINEMAN APPOINTING JOHN E. NELSON AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, EFFECTIVE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, AT 1:30. ATTACHED TO THAT APPOINTMENT IS THE ACCOMPANYING OATH OF OFFICE. IN ADDITION, RESIGNATION LETTERS FROM SENATOR SCOTT LAUTENBAUGH, FROM SENATOR CHARLIE JANSSEN. PURSUANT TO THE RESIGNATION LETTER FROM SENATOR JANSSEN, I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT LETTER FROM GOVERNOR HEINEMAN APPOINTING MR. DAVID A. SCHNOOR TO FILL THE SEAT VACANCY AS CREATED IN THE 15th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT. ACCOMPANYING THAT ARE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING THE OATH OF OFFICE. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE AT THIS TIME, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 2-8.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR SEILER.

SENATOR SEILER: (MICROPHONE MALFUNCTION)...OUT WITH A BANG. (LAUGHTER) I MOVE WE PROCEED TO THE...(MICROPHONE MALFUNCTION). I MOVE THAT WE PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF FIVE PERSONS TO SERVE AS A COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS WHO WILL FORTHWITH REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE CREDENTIALS OF THOSE CLAIMING TO BE ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATURE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER OF 2014.

PRESIDENT NELSON: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE MOTION TO ELECT THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR SMITH.

SENATOR SMITH: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING FIVE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS: SENATORS CHAMBERS, COASH, HADLEY, SCHILZ, AND NORDQUIST.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU. THE FIVE MEMBERS ARE: SENATOR

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CHAMBERS, SENATOR COASH, SENATOR HADLEY, SENATOR SCHILZ, AND SENATOR NORDQUIST. THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS TO ELECT THOSE FIVE MEMBERS. ARE THERE ANY FURTHER NOMINATIONS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. THE FIVE MEMBERS SHOULD RETIRE TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER TO JOIN THE CLERK AND SECRETARY OF STATE. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR COASH.

SENATOR COASH: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS' REPORT, AS CERTIFIED AND PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 8-10.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU. THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE REPORT IS ADOPTED. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR SCHEER.

SENATOR SCHEER: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT A COMMITTEE OF FIVE BE APPOINTED TO ESCORT THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT TO THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU. THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS TO SELECT A COMMITTEE OF FIVE TO ESCORT THE CHIEF JUSTICE. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. THE CHAIR APPOINTS THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE: SENATOR SEILER, SENATOR DAVIS, SENATOR JOHNSON, SENATOR CRAWFORD, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. WILL YOU PLEASE RETIRE TO THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT'S OFFICE. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE MIKE HEAVICAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT.

CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WE'RE HERE TODAY TO SWEAR IN NEW MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE WHO WERE REELECTED. SO I WILL CALL YOUR NAMES AND, IF YOU WOULD COME FORWARD, THEN WE WILL DO A SIMPLE OATH OF OFFICE: FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 2, SENATOR WILLIAM KINTNER; FROM DISTRICT 3, SENATOR TOMMY GARRETT; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 4, SENATOR ROBERT

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HILKEMANN; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 6, SENATOR JONI CRAIGHEAD; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 8, SENATOR BURKE HARR; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 10, SENATOR BOB KRIST; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 12, SENATOR MERV RIEPE; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 14, SENATOR JIM SMITH; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 16, SENATOR LYDIA BRASCH; FROM DISTRICT 18, SENATOR BRETT LINDSTROM; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 20, SENATOR JOHN S. McCOLLISTER; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 22, SENATOR PAUL SCHUMACHER; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 24, SENATOR MARK KOLTERMAN; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 26, SENATOR MATT HANSEN; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 28, SENATOR PATTY PANSING BROOKS; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 30, SENATOR ROY BAKER; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 32, SENATOR LAURA EBKE; FROM DISTRICT NUMBER 34, SENATOR CURT FRIESEN; FROM DISTRICT 36, SENATOR MATTHEW WILLIAMS; FROM DISTRICT 38, SENATOR JOHN KUEHN; FROM DISTRICT 40, SENATOR TYSON LARSON; FROM DISTRICT 42, SENATOR MICHAEL GROENE; FROM DISTRICT 44, SENATOR DAN HUGHES; FROM DISTRICT 46, SENATOR ADAM MORFELD; AND FROM DISTRICT 48, SENATOR JOHN P. STINNER. I BELIEVE I HAVE EVERYBODY. AND IF I DON'T, STAND NOW AND LET US KNOW. (LAUGHTER) SO FOR ALL OF YOU WHOSE NAMES I HAVE CALLED, PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 10-11.) CONGRATULATIONS. YOU ARE NOW OFFICIALLY NEBRASKA STATE SENATORS.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN. WILL THE COMMITTEE PLEASE ESCORT THE CHIEF JUSTICE FROM THE CHAMBER. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR GARRETT.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT THE RULES THAT IS NOW IN OUR POSSESSION BE ADOPTED FOR TODAY ONLY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU. THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY RULES. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. SENATOR KINTNER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR KINTNER: WELL, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU KNOW, THE SALVATION OF THE STATE IS THE WATCHFULNESS OF ITS CITIZENS. AND THAT INSCRIPTION IS ON...IT'S THE INSPIRING MOTTO THAT'S CARVED INTO THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE CAPITOL. HAVING CITIZENS WATCH AND PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT LEADERS IS A HALLMARK OF OUR STATE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO IN THE DESIGN OF THE UNICAMERAL SYSTEM. BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT LEGISLATURE IF ELECTED OFFICIALS DO NOT MAKE IT EASY FOR CITIZENS TO KNOW HOW THEY VOTE. YOU KNOW, GEORGE NORRIS SAID THAT EVERY ACT

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OF THE LEGISLATURE AND EVERY ACT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL MUST BE TRANSACTED IN THE SPOTLIGHT OF PUBLICITY. AND I THINK IT'S ONE AREA THAT WE'VE NOT DONE WELL IN, IS THE ELECTION OF OUR SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN. AND IF THE PEOPLE ARE TO BE THE SECOND HOUSE, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE HOW WE VOTED AND WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO JUSTIFY IT TO THE CITIZENS OF OUR STATE. I THINK THE BEST WAY DO THAT IS TO HAVE OUR RULES COMMITTEE, WHICH IS GOING TO MEET THIS WEEK, TO DO THEIR JOB. AND I'M GOING TO ASK THREE THINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE. FIRST, I'M GOING TO ASK MY FELLOW LEGISLATORS TO VOTE FOR THE TEMPORARY RULES AND TO DO IT QUICKLY. WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO TODAY. SECOND, I'M GOING ASK THOSE NEW MEMBERS OF THE RULES COMMITTEE TO TAKE A SERIOUS LOOK AT PUTTING INTO THE PERMANENT RULES A RECORDED VOTE FOR SPEAKER AND CHAIRMEN SO THAT THAT'S HOW WE DO THESE THINGS FROM NOW ON. I MEAN WE'VE ONLY BEEN DOING THE SECRET BALLOT SINCE 1971; IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT WAS DESIGNED INTO THE SYSTEM ORIGINALLY. AND THIRD, SINCE THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN TODAY BECAUSE IT HAS TO GO THROUGH THE RIGHT PROCESS, THAT I SUPPORT, I'M GOING TO REVEAL WHO I VOTED FOR SHORTLY AFTER I VOTE ON THE FLOOR, WITHIN MINUTES. AND I'M GOING TO ENCOURAGE ALL 48 OF MY COLLEAGUES TO DO THE SAME. IT OUGHT BE PRETTY EASY BECAUSE WE HAVE, ON A SIDE NOTE, I WOULD SAY, WE HAVE SOME GREAT, GREAT CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE THAT CAN'T DO THE JOB. WHOEVER YOU VOTE FOR, IT WOULD BE VERY EASY TO JUSTIFY TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS, TO THE CITIZENS, AND YOUR FELLOW SENATORS, BECAUSE EVERYONE RUNNING FOR OFFICE, BOTH SPEAKER AND FOR LEADERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, IS FULLY QUALIFIED AND CAN DO A GREAT JOB. AND THERE'S SOME TOUGH VOTES TO PICK WHO WE HAVE TO VOTE FOR, BUT I THINK THE CITIZENS SHOULD KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING. SO I WOULD ENCOURAGE THAT ALSO TO HAPPEN. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES, FOR A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME. AND THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER. WE HAVE A MOTION BEFORE YOU FOR THE ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY RULES. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. WE NOW MOVE TO ELECTION OF PERMANENT OFFICERS. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR KRIST.

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I MOVE THAT THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS, RECOMMENDED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, BE ELECTED TO SERVE FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE: CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE PATRICK J. O'DONNELL; ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE RICHARD K. BROWN; AND FINALLY, SERGEANT AT ARMS RON

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WITKOWSKI.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE ELECTION OF PERMANENT OFFICERS. WE HAVE A MOTION FOR THE ELECTION OF THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE, PATRICK J. O'DONNELL, AND THE ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE, RICHARD K. BROWN, AND THE SERGEANT OF ARMS, RON WITKOWSKI. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. (MICROPHONE MALFUNCTION)...ENJOYED HAVING THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY ON THE FLOOR HERE TODAY. HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME WE WILL BE PROCEEDING TO THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER AND WE WILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO MOVE ABOUT THE FLOOR TO GATHER BALLOTS, SO I WOULD REQUEST THAT YOU MOVE TO THE SIDES OF THE LEGISLATURE. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR MELLO.

SENATOR MELLO: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATURE.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR. THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO PROCEED WITH THE SELECTION OF...ELECTION OF SPEAKER. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR COASH.

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. WHAT A GREAT DAY IT HAS BEEN SO FAR. COLLEAGUES, I STAND BEFORE YOU HUMBLED: HUMBLED TO BE HERE WITH YOU AND HUMBLED TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS SPEAKER OF THIS GREAT INSTITUTION. WE ARE ALL 1 OF 49 SENT TO THIS SPECIAL PLACE. WE'RE ASKED TO BE THE VOICES OF THE MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN OF THIS STATE. WHAT A GREAT PRIVILEGE. WHILE SENATORS ALL YEAR, WE ARE SENT HERE FOR 150 DAYS OVER TWO YEARS TO DO THE BUSINESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE. WE MARKET THEIR IDEAS, WE MOVE THEIR AGENDAS, AND WE MOVE THIS STATE FORWARD. AND THEY HAVE HUMBLED US WITH THE CONFIDENCE THAT SENT US ALL HERE TODAY. AND IT IS THOSE NEBRASKA IDEAS, THOSE NEBRASKA DREAMS, AND THAT NEBRASKA DESIRE THAT THROUGH ALL OF US DRIVE ME TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS WE EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER. WE AS A LEGISLATIVE BODY HAVE SO MUCH OPPORTUNITY BEFORE US. AND I'M EXCITED ABOUT THE JOURNEY, OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER. I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING OF SERVICE TO ALL OF YOU, TO ASSIST YOU IN BEING THE BEST REPRESENTATIVE OF THOSE THAT SENT YOU AS YOU CAN BE. I VALUE HIGHLY THE PROCESS BY WHICH WE OPERATE, AND I BELIEVE THE DEBATE STRENGTHENS US AND IT STRENGTHENS OUR PROCESS. DEBATE IS WHAT WE DO IN THESE WALLS. I'M CONVICTED THAT THE DEBATE THAT WE HAVE WITHIN THESE WALLS WILL BE

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PRODUCTIVE, IT WILL BE THOUGHTFUL, AND IT, ABOVE ALL, WILL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR PRIORITIES. WE HAVE WORK TO DO, COLLEAGUES, AND WE HAVE PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME WITH WHICH TO COMPLETE OUR JOB. AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT I CAN BE OF SERVICE TO YOU AS YOUR SPEAKER AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR HADLEY.

SENATOR HADLEY: GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. GREAT DAY--LIKE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, RIGHT? YOU GET ALL CLEANED UP, SHOES SHINED, TROUSERS PRESSED. IT IS AN HONOR TO BE HERE. WE HAD 18 NEW SENATORS. I HOPE YOU ALL GROW TO LOVE THE PLACE AS MUCH AS THE 31 SENATORS THAT HAVE BEEN HERE TWO, FOUR, OR SIX YEARS. IT'S A GREAT INSTITUTION. IT'S A GREAT THIRD PART OF NEBRASKA GOVERNMENT AND A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF NEBRASKA GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD BE A GREAT HONOR TO REPRESENT EACH OF YOU AS YOUR SPEAKER OF THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE. I SEE THE POSITION AS A LEADERSHIP POSITION WHOSE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO HELP ALL 48 SENATORS DO THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK FOR THE CITIZENS OF NEBRASKA. I ALSO SEE THE POSITION AS ONE THAT REPRESENTS THE UNIQUE, IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF NEBRASKA GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA. WHAT WOULD I BRING IN WAY OF EXPERIENCE TO THIS POSITION? I BELIEVE I'VE GIVEN EACH OF YOU A LIST OF THE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS I'VE HAD IN THE PAST, SO I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO GO THROUGH THOSE IN DETAIL. BUT I'D LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THEM, AND THE ONLY REASON I DO IS THAT WE DO BRING EXPERIENCES TO THIS BODY. ALL OF US COME WITH BACKGROUNDS THAT HELP US DO OUR JOB HERE. I SERVED AS THE PRESIDENT OF A UNIVERSITY, THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AT TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE DEAN OF A COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AT TWO UNIVERSITIES. I WAS MAYOR OF THE FIFTH-LARGEST CITY IN NEBRASKA, SERVED ON THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE FIFTH LARGEST-CITY IN NEBRASKA. I'VE BEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF A \$60 MILLION HEALTHCARE CONSULTING FIRM, FOR PROFIT. I WAS AN OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR A FORTUNE 500 FIRM. SO I BRING THOSE THAT BECAME A PART OF ME AS WE MOVE ALONG. I BRING SIX YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THIS GREAT INSTITUTION, THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE. I ALSO BRING A GREAT LOVE OF THIS INSTITUTION. I WAS ELECTED BY YOU, MY PEERS, TO CHAIR THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, AND YOU CAN JUDGE MY SUCCESS IN THAT POSITION. BUT I THINK IT JUST AS IMPORTANT I HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT TAKES TO CHAIR A COMMITTEE, AND IT DOES TAKE EXTRA-HARD WORK. AND ONE OF MY GOALS WILL BE TO WORK WITH ESPECIALLY THE NEW CHAIRS TO GIVE THEM ANY HELP THAT I CAN IN DOING THEIR IMPORTANT PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES. WHILE WORKING ON THAT COMMITTEE THE LAST TWO

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YEARS, I INTRODUCED 36 BILLS; 23 OF THEM WERE ADOPTED INTO LAW. AND THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO AS A CHAIR. YOU'RE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME. I WANT TO GO OUT OF MY WAY TO THANK THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE THAT I WORKED WITH WHO WERE OUTSTANDING MEMBERS. WE GOT THROUGH SOME VERY DIFFICULT TIMES AND I THINK WE CAN HOLD OUR HEAD HIGH. I WAS ELECTED BY YOU TO CHAIR THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE. AGAIN WE WORKED HARD; WE DID THAT. I WILL DO MY VERY BEST WHEN WORKING WITH EACH OF YOU TO BE TWO THINGS: FAIR AND HONEST. YOU MAY NOT LIKE ME TO BE HONEST WITH YOU ALL THE TIME, BUT I'LL TRY TO BE. IT CAME BACK TO ME WHEN I THINK IT WAS SENATOR HARMS WAS TALKING UP AT OUR RETREAT AND HE MADE THE COMMENT THAT SPEAKER FLOOD...JOHN HAD A BILL AND SPEAKER FLOOD CAME TO HIM AND SAYS, I'M SORRY, IT'S NOT GOING ANYPLACE WITH THAT FISCAL NOTE. SPEAKER FLOOD WAS HONEST WITH HIM. JOHN PULLED THE...GOT THE FISCAL NOTE PULLED AND GOT THE BILL PASSED. SO I'LL BE FAIR AND HONEST. AS JOHN WOODEN STATED...JOHN WOODEN, THE UCLA BASKETBALL COACH, WROTE A GREAT, GREAT, GREAT BOOK ON LEADERSHIP. HE STATED: A LEADER SHOULD SURROUND HIMSELF WITH THE VERY BEST PEOPLE POSSIBLE WHO ARE WILLING TO ARGUE WITH HIM. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WILL BE A PROBLEM IN THIS BODY. (LAUGHTER) AGAIN, I WOULD CONSIDER IT A GREAT HONOR TO BE YOUR SPEAKER, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE FOR THIS POSITION. THANK YOU.

PRESIDENT NELSON: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I FORMALLY DECLARED MYSELF A CANDIDATE FOR EVERY MAJOR COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THIS BODY. I HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WAS AN ALL-OR-NOTHING PROPOSITION. BY DOING SO, I PUT MYSELF IN A PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION EXCEPT THAT I STILL CONTROL IT. LET'S SAY FOR THE SAKE OF DISCUSSION THAT I SHOULD WIN THIS ELECTION, I SHOULD WIN THE NEXT ELECTION, AND ALL THE WAY THROUGH UNTIL WE GET TO THE VERY LAST ONE, AND LOSE. HAVING DECLARED THAT IT'S ALL OR NOTHING, I WOULD THEN BE IN THE UNENVIABLE POSITION OF HAVING TO RESIGN EACH OF THOSE POSITIONS ON THE VERY SAME DAY THAT THEY WERE GIVEN TO ME. HAVING OFFERED A FORMAL REQUEST OR INTENT TO RUN, I SHOULD JUST AS FORMALLY WITHDRAW. AND THOSE WHO THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE RUNNING AGAINST THEM MAY NOW SIGH OR EXHALE. (LAUGHTER) AND IN THE PROCESS OF WITHDRAWING, GENERAL, I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY SOMETHING I HEARD LYNDON JOHNSON SAY WHEN HE WAS LEAVING THE PRESIDENCY. AND I ALWAYS WANDERED IF I'D HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY IT AND THAT OPPORTUNITY HAS ARRIVED. HAVING ANNOUNCED THE WITHDRAWAL OF MY CANDIDACY FOR EVERY

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CHAIRPERSONSHIP, I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT, IF NOMINATED, I WILL NOT RUN; IF ELECTED, I WILL NOT SERVE. THANK YOU. (LAUGHTER)

PRESIDENT NELSON: ARE THERE ANY FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, THE CHAIR DECLARES THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED. WE WILL PROCEED TO A VOTE. YOU WILL FIND PIECES OF PAPER ON YOUR DESK THAT YOU CAN USE TO WRITE THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL YOU ARE VOTING FOR. THE CLERK AND THE ASSISTANT CLERK WILL COLLECT THE BALLOTS. I WOULD APPOINT THE FOLLOWING THREE SENATORS AS TELLERS: SENATOR McCOY, SENATOR SULLIVAN, AND SENATOR SCHUMACHER. WHEN THE THREE OF YOU HAVE FINISHED VOTING, YOU MAY COME FORWARD. MEMBERS, SENATOR HADLEY HAS BEEN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE...HAS BEEN ELECTED SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY. CONGRATULATIONS, MR. SPEAKER. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR BLOOMFIELD.

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT THE COMMITTEE OF FIVE BE APPOINTED TO ESCORT THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT TO THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE OFFICERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU. THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS TO SELECT A COMMITTEE OF FIVE TO ESCORT THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE OFFICERS SELECTED. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. WILL THE COMMITTEE OF FIVE PROCEED TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER TO AGAIN ESCORT THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO ADMINISTER THE OATH. THAT WOULD BE SENATORS SEILER, DAVIS, SCHUMACHER, JOHNSON, AND CRAWFORD. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR COMMITTEE NOW ESCORTING NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE MIKE HEAVICAN.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT.

CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WE WILL NOW SWEAR IN THE NEW SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATURE, FOLLOWED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE, AND THE SERGEANT AT ARMS. SO WOULD SENATOR GALEN HADLEY COME FORWARD TO TAKE THE OATH. SENATOR HADLEY, WOULD YOU RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO SPEAKER HADLEY.) CONGRATULATIONS. AND NOW WE WILL HAVE THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR

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PATRICK J. O'DONNELL, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE. WOULD YOU RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO CLERK O'DONNELL.) CONGRATULATIONS. AND NOW THE ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE, RICHARD K. BROWN. WOULD YOU RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO ASSISTANT CLERK BROWN.) CONGRATULATIONS. AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, THE SERGEANT AT ARMS, RON WITKOWSKI. WOULD YOU RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND, PLEASE. (OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO SERGEANT AT ARMS WITKOWSKI.) CONGRATULATIONS. AND THAT CONCLUDES THE VARIOUS OATHS THAT WILL BE TAKEN TODAY. WE'LL HAVE SOME MORE TOMORROW AFTERNOON. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, CHIEF JUSTICE. WILL THE COMMITTEE PLEASE ESCORT THE CHIEF JUSTICE FROM THE CHAMBER. SENATOR HADLEY, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS TO PROCEED WITH THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR McCOY.

SENATOR McCOY THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND GOOD MORNING, RETURNING MEMBERS AND NEW MEMBERS. IT'S AN EXCITING DAY. I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR VOTE THIS MORNING TO RETURN AS THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES CHAIRMAN. SERVED IN THIS POST TWO YEARS AGO AND I WOULD WISH TO SERVE IN THIS POST AGAIN. IT MAY ONLY BE A COMMITTEE THAT ORDINARILY MEETS EVERY TWO YEARS BUT, AS ALL OF US KNOW AS WE GO ABOUT THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS, HAS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF IMPACT ON THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE, AND I WOULD HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR VOTE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR GARRETT: I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR McCOY.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR McCOY CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR McCOY. SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

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SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE REMAINING 12 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND THAT WE AUTHORIZE THE MEMBERS RESIDING WITHIN EACH OF THE THREE DISTRICTS, AS ENUMERATED IN RULE 3, SECTION 2, TO NOMINATE FOUR MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE BODY TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR. THE QUESTION IS THE MOTION TO ELECT THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. WILL EACH OF THE CAUCUSES PLEASE SUBMIT THEIR REPORT TO THE FRONT OF THE LEGISLATURE. MR. CLERK.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I'VE RECEIVED A SERIES OF REPORTS FROM THE VARIOUS CAUCUSES. WITH RESPECT TO THE 1ST DISTRICT CAUCUS, MEMBERS SELECTED FOR THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES INCLUDE: SENATORS CAMPBELL, COASH, GARRETT, AND SCHUMACHER. WITH RESPECT TO THE 2ND DISTRICT CAUCUS, SENATORS KRIST, MELLO, SMITH, AND BURKE HARR HAVE BEEN SELECTED. AND WITH RESPECT TO THE 3RD DISTRICT CAUCUS, SENATORS BLOOMFIELD, SCHILZ, HADLEY, AND WATERMEIER ARE THE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THAT PARTICULAR CAUCUS.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR SULLIVAN FOR A MOTION TO...SENATOR CAMPBELL, I'M SORRY.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I MOVE THAT..THE APPROVAL OF THE NOMINEES TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR. THE QUESTION IS THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOMINEES. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR KEN HAAR FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR HAAR: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE QUESTION IS THE MOTION TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE ADOPTION...THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR KRIST.

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND AS IS MY CUSTOM, GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. GLAD YOU'RE WATCHING AND LISTENING. I RISE TO PLACE MY NAME IN NOMINATION FOR THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. BUT BEFORE I CONTINUE, I WANT TO WELCOME FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND ALSO SAY HELLO TO PEGGY, MY WIFE, AND MY DAUGHTER, COURTNEY, WHO'S BEEN UNDER THE WEATHER ALL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. I KNOW SHE'S WATCHING, SO, HELLO. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING BUT IT NEEDS BE SAID: WITHOUT FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND SUPPORT, WE COULD NOT DO WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE TODAY. SO THANK YOU ALL. TWO YEARS AGO, I STOOD HERE AND ASKED FOR A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TO BE THE VICE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND I RECEIVED THAT VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. I HAVE SPENT THE LAST TWO YEARS UNDER THE TUTELAGE AND MENTORSHIP OF SENATOR JOHN WIGHTMAN AND THE STAFF. I BELIEVE I'M READY FOR THE NEXT STEP MOVING FORWARD: TO BE THE CHAIR OF YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD. I REALIZE AND UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE AND APPRECIATE THE SCOPE OF THAT POSITION. WE ARE ENTRUSTED ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO MAKE SURE THE LOGISTICS SURROUNDING THIS BUILDING AND OUR STAFF ARE TAKEN CARE OF SEAMLESSLY SO THAT YOU CAN DO YOUR JOB. I MAKE YOU TWO PROMISES TODAY. I WILL CONTINUE TO DILIGENTLY LOOK OUT FOR OUR STAFF, BOTH OUR PERSONAL STAFF AND OUR LEGISLATIVE STAFF. WITHOUT THEM, WE COULD NOT SUCCEED. WHEN YOU ARE HOME DOING OTHER BUSINESS IN THIS LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, THEY ARE HERE ANSWERING THE PHONE ON BEHALF OF YOU, WITH ALL OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS AND ALL OF THEIR CONCERNS. THEY ARE CRITICAL TO OUR SUCCESS. THE SECOND PROMISE I WILL MAKE IS I WILL CONTINUE NOT TO JUST HEAR, BUT LISTEN AND UNDERSTAND BOTH THE PROCESS AND THE CONCERNS OF YOU. FORTY-NINE OF US ARE ENTRUSTED WITH TAKING CARE OF THE STATE'S BUSINESS AND WE NEED TO BE...I NEED TO BE RESPONSIVE, AS DOES YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD. I HUMBLY WOULD ASK FOR YOUR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AGAIN, THIS TIME AS THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND I EAGERLY LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD IN THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE. THANK YOU.

PRESIDENT NELSON: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WISH TO PLACE MY NAME UP FOR EXEC BOARD CHAIR. THOSE OF YOU WHO OBSERVED THAT I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO SERVE WITH AND THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE NEW WILL COME TO KNOW THAT I DON'T SPEND A LOT OF TIME SPEAKING. I TEND TO CUT TO THE CHASE. MY INTENT IS TO BE FAIR AND OPEN, IF ELECTED, TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE, AND TO HAVE NO AX TO GRIND

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AS I COME BEFORE YOU NOW ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT. AND I DO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU.

PRESIDENT NELSON: ARE THERE ANY FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, THE CHAIR DECLARES THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO A VOTE. AGAIN, YOU WILL FIND PIECES OF PAPER ON YOUR DESK. THE CLERK AND ASSISTANT CLERK WILL COLLECT THE BALLOTS. I WOULD APPOINT THE FOLLOWING THREE SENATORS AS TELLERS: SENATOR SCHILZ, SENATOR CRAWFORD, AND SENATOR SEILER. WHEN THE THREE OF YOU HAVE FINISHED VOTING, YOU MAY COME FORWARD. SENATOR KRIST HAS BEEN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR KRIST. I RECOGNIZE SENATOR SCHUMACHER FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: MR. CHAIRMAN, I MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU. THE QUESTION IS THE MOTION TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. SENATOR KOLOWSKI, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I THANK THE BODY AS A WHOLE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR...TO RUN FOR THIS POSITION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. I THINK IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT POSITION AND I HAVE SENT A LETTER OUT THAT YOU ALL HAVE RECEIVED AS FAR AS MY PERSONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCES. I HOPE THAT WAS HELPFUL TO YOU AS FAR AS FILLING IN SOME OF THE GAPS IN YOUR THINKING AS TO MY PREPARATION OR POTENTIAL FOR THIS PARTICULAR POSITION. THE EXPERIENCES AND BACKGROUND I DO HAVE WITH OPERATIONS CONCERNING FACILITIES, PERSONNEL, AND SYSTEMS LOGISTICS, AS SENATOR KRIST WAS TALKING ABOUT, IS VERY WIDE. ONE OF THE TRADEMARKS I'D LEAVE YOU WITH FROM MY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL EXPERIENCES WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS VERY SIMPLE THAT I SAID EVERY YEAR TO A FULL GYMNASIUM FULL OF 2,000-PLUS STUDENTS AND TO MY ENTIRE STAFF, AND THIS HAPPENED ON A YEARLY BASIS. IT'S VERY SIMPLE. BUT I ASKED THEM TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES, TAKE CARE OF THOSE AROUND YOU, AND TAKE CARE OF THIS PLACE. IF WE DO THAT SUFFICIENTLY AND DO THAT DAILY AND THINKING NOT ONLY OF THIS FACILITY BUT THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, I THINK WE'LL HAVE OUR PROPER ORDER OF THINKING ABOUT THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF. THOSE ARE MY EXPECTATIONS TO THE STUDENTS AND STAFF OF MY BUILDING WHEN I

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WORKED AS A HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, AND I CARRY THAT OVER INTO ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF MY LIFE, ESPECIALLY BEING HERE. SO I ASK YOU TO THINK OF THOSE THINGS. AND I'M HONORED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RUN FOR THIS PARTICULAR OFFICE AND LOOK FORWARD, HOPEFULLY, TO YOUR SUPPORT AS WELL. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

PRESIDENT NELSON: SENATOR WATERMEIER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR WATERMEIER: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. AND WELCOME, NEBRASKA, AND WELCOME TO ALL OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HERE TODAY. I RISE TO SELF-NOMINATE MYSELF FOR VICE CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE BOARD. THERE ARE SOME OBVIOUS THINGS THAT MAY BE NOT QUITE SO OBVIOUS TO THE NEW MEMBERS BUT I CONSIDER THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ONE OF FOUR POSITIONS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN CARE OF, ADMINISTERED OF THE LEGISLATIVE BOARD TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THEY ACTUALLY ARE A SERVING COMMITTEE, A STANDING COMMITTEE THAT WILL RECEIVE HEARINGS ON LEGISLATIVE BILLS. THE THIRD THING IS THE REFERENCING COMMITTEE. AND THE FOURTH THING IS THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND I PLEDGE TODAY TO LOOK AT THAT IN THE MOST UNBIASED WAY THAT I POSSIBLY CAN. I PROMISE TO YOU TODAY THAT IN ALL FOUR OF THOSE POSITIONS I WILL DO THE VERY BEST I CAN. WHEN I LOOKED AT THIS POSITION A YEAR AGO AND I DECIDED AT THAT TIME I WANTED TO RUN, I REALLY LOOKED AT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN TWO THINGS, JUST THE ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES THAT I JUST MENTIONED. BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE, THERE IS AN UNDERLYING PROBLEM THAT I'VE ALWAYS SEEN AND A THING THAT WE NEED TO OVERCOME THIS BODY. IN 1937, THE UNICAMERAL BEGAN IN NEBRASKA. AS ALL OF THE WORK THAT I'VE DONE THROUGH PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND THE WATER SUSTAINABILITY FUND, THE NITC BOARD THAT I SERVE ON, AND THE WORK THAT I TALK ABOUT WITH STAFF MEMBERS, I ALWAYS ASK ONE QUESTION: HOW MANY YEARS OF SERVICE? I HEAR THE NUMBER 25. I HEAR 35. I'VE HEARD 39 YESTERDAY. IF YOU THINK ABOUT THE UNICAMERAL, WE'VE BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR 78 YEARS AND WE HAVE PEOPLE IN THIS BODY THAT HAVE BEEN HERE ALMOST FORTY YEARS. WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT A SUCCESSION PLAN. WE NEED TO HAVE THAT, AND THAT'S WHERE IT HAPPENS: INSIDE THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. I THINK THAT'S REALLY CRITICAL THAT WE'RE SO BLESSED WITH THE DIVISIONS THAT WE HAVE IN THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. OUR CLERK'S OFFICE IS HEADS AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. THE DIFFERENT DIVISIONS THAT WE HAVE--THE FISCAL OFFICE, THE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE, PERFORMANCE AUDIT, THE RESEARCH...LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH--AS I'VE SPENT THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF REALLY WORKING INSIDE THESE DIVISIONS, IT BECOMES SO APPARENT TO ME THAT THAT LEGISLATIVE HISTORY WE HAVE IN THIS BODY IS SECOND TO NONE. AND I

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REALLY WANT TO MAKE A PROMISE TO THIS BODY THAT WE HAVE TO...WAYS TO FIND TO CARRY THAT THROUGH. TERM LIMITS HAS CAUSED SOME PROBLEMS AS FAR AS CARRYING THAT LEGISLATIVE HISTORY FORWARD, AND I PLEDGE TO YOU THAT THAT'S A PROMISE I WANT TO MAKE, AS FAR AS INSIDE THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, TO WORK ON THAT AS BEST AS I CAN. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR. ARE THERE ANY FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, WE WILL PROCEED TO A VOTE. I WOULD APPOINT THE FOLLOWING THREE SENATORS AS TELLERS: SENATOR GLOOR, SENATOR MURANTE, SENATOR COOK. WILL YOU PLEASE COME FORWARD WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR BALLOT. SENATOR WATERMEIER HAS BEEN ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SIC--BOARD). CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR WATERMEIER. SENATOR LARSON, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR LARSON: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE OTHER SIX MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AS OUTLINED IN 50-401.01.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE MOTION TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO THAT MOTION, I HAVE REPORTS FROM THE THREE CAUCUSES. THE 1ST CAUCUS WOULD ANNOUNCE THAT SENATORS CAMPBELL AND COASH HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE 2ND CAUCUS WOULD ANNOUNCE SENATORS CHAMBERS AND MURANTE TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND, DISTRICT 3, SENATORS LARSON AND HUGHES TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR BOLZ FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CAUCUS REPORTS.

SENATOR BOLZ: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE APPROVAL OF THE NOMINEES TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE CAUCUS REPORTS. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE CAUCUS REPORTS ARE ADOPTED. WE NOW MOVE TO

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ELECTIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR WATERMEIER.

SENATOR WATERMEIER: THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS BY SECRET BALLOT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 3, SECTION 8.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE MOTION TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. WE WILL START WITH THE CHAIR OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. I RECOGNIZE SENATOR BRASCH.

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS ALL, AND TO EVERYONE WATCHING HERE FROM NEAR AND FAR BY MEANS OF BROADCAST OR ON-LINE. AND I KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING BECAUSE YOU LET US ALL KNOW. AND I WANT TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST 18 MEMBERS OF THE UNICAMERAL JOINING US FOR THE FIRST TIME. I'M JOINING YOU, TOO, FOLLOWING MY REELECTION AND THE BEGINNING OF MY SECOND TERM. IT IS TRULY AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE ONCE MORE AND TO WORK AMONG YOU TO SERVE MY DISTRICT AND STATE WHO ARE OUR SECOND HOUSE. TODAY I RISE ASKING YOU RESPECTFULLY FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND VOTE IN MY SEEKING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, A COMMITTEE I SERVED ON FOR TWO YEARS. WEEKS AGO, I STARTED WRITING OUT MY REMARKS TO USE THE MOST PERFECT WORDS AND TO EXPRESS EXACTLY WHAT I'M ASKING YOU TODAY AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT. I STARTED OVER AT LEAST 20 TIMES. AND LAST NIGHT, SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT, I DECIDED TO SIMPLY STOP WRITING AND JUST SAY IT. IT'S DIFFICULT, REALLY TOUGH, BECAUSE I BELIEVE WORDS CANNOT DO JUSTICE FROM PAPER WHEN THEY ARE ENGRAVED IN YOUR HEART AND A PART OF OUR LIVES, REGARDLESS IF WE LIVE IN BANCROFT, IN BELLEVUE, IN OGALLALA, LINCOLN, OR OMAHA. AGRICULTURE IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR COUNTRY. OUR HISTORY BOOKS TELL US ABOUT OUR AGRARIAN FOUNDING FATHERS. IT IS THE DRIVING ECONOMIC ENGINE OF THIS VERY STATE. IT NOT ONLY SUSTAINS US, BUT IT IS WHAT HAS SAVED US OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS AS OUR COUNTRY STRUGGLED ITS WAY THROUGH A NATIONWIDE RECESSION. IT HOLDS THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE AS TO HOW WE FEED AND FUEL THE NEEDS OF THOSE AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD. IF ELECTED CHAIRPERSON OF AGRICULTURE, I WILL GIVE IT MY FULL AND UNDIVIDED ATTENTION TO HOW WE CAN MOVE OUR NEBRASKA FARM AND LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PRODUCTION POSSIBLE, TO PROTECT BEST PRACTICES, AND PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE, TO GUARD

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AGAINST OVERBEARING REGULATIONS AND MAINTAIN OUR INTEGRITY AS GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH. FARMERS WERE OUR ORIGINAL PIONEERS. IT'S INSCRIBED ON THIS GREAT CAPITOL: HONOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO BROKE THE SOD. WE ARE PIONEERS. TO THIS VERY DAY, EXPANDING INTO NEW FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE. I UNDERSTAND THE CRITICAL CHALLENGES AND IMMENSE OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE BECAUSE MY HUSBAND AND I FARM. HE'S UP IN THE BALCONY, AND HE IS THE FIFTH GENERATION OF A FARMER. WE LIVE AND WORK ON OUR FARM. WE'VE REALIZED THE NEED TO ENSURE THERE ARE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF FARMERS THAT FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AN INDUSTRY AS OLD AS THE BEGINNING OF TIME. DISTRICT 16, WHICH I SERVE, IS PREDOMINANTLY AGRICULTURE, AND IT'S ALSO THE HOME OF AG INDUSTRIES SUCH AS CARGILL AND ITS INTERNATIONAL BIOCAMPUS. AS THE PAST MARKETING DIRECTOR OF THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR, I LEARNED THAT WHAT IS GOOD FOR AGRICULTURE IS GOOD FOR ALL OF NEBRASKA. KEEPING THE GOOD LIFE GROWING IS NO SIMPLE TASK. I HAVE ENJOYED THE PLEASURE OF GIVING A SHOUT-OUT TO OUR YOUTH GROUPS SUCH AS 4-H AND FFA. I HAVE SEEN THE SOW...I HAVE SEEN THE SEEDS SOWN BY OUR UNIVERSITY FOR INNOVATION CAMPUS, AND THEY ARE PLANTED AND IT GROWS IN WHAT PROMISES TO BE A LEADER IN CREATING NEW FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE SCIENCE. DURING MY FIRST TWO YEARS, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO LEARN FROM EXPERIENCED LEADERS AND COLLEAGUES LIKE SPEAKER FLOOD AND SENATOR FISCHER, SENATOR HEIDEMANN, AND SO MANY OTHERS THAT I ALSO SEE HERE TODAY WHO, WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE AND IN THEIR SECOND TERMS, THEY LED THE CHARGE TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURE. I THANK THEM FOR THEIR MENTORING OF MANY, INCLUDING MYSELF. THEY ENCOURAGED ME TO APPLY FOR LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS AND I DID, SUCH AS BUILD AND THE HENRY TOLL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THIS VERY DAY. IT WAS AN EXCITING HONOR TO BE ACCEPTED, TO BE A BUILD FELLOW, AND THEN TO BE NOMINATED AS THE SINGLE NEBRASKA LEGISLATOR REPRESENTATIVE BY SPEAKER FLOOD TO ATTEND THE 2012 EMERGING LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM. LAST YEAR, I WAS ALSO HONORED TO BE SELECTED AS A HENRY TOLL FELLOW. SEVERAL OF OUR CHAIRMEN PAST AND PRESENT HAVE BEEN GRADUATES OF THE BUILD AND HENRY TOLL FELLOW PROGRAMS. EACH OF THESE WORK-STUDY FELLOWSHIPS HAD BUT ONE FOCUS, AND THAT IS TO BUILD THE BEST LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP POSSIBLE. AGAIN, FARMING IS A PART OF MY PAST. IT'S ALSO A REAL PART OF MY PRESENT AND DAY-TO-DAY LIFE. IT IS OUR FUTURE. AND I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND CONSIDERATION TODAY. THANK YOU.

PRESIDENT NELSON: SENATOR JOHNSON, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR JOHNSON: THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND GOOD

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MORNING, COLLEAGUES. AS WE BEGIN THE ELECTION PROCESS OF THE 14 LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEES, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE LOOK AT EACH CANDIDATE, WHAT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE THAT THEY MIGHT BRING TO THE LEGISLATURE--EXPERIENCE IN BUSINESS, WORKING IN OUR COMMUNITIES, AND EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. FOR SOME OF US THE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN FAR GREATER IN THE WALLS OUTSIDE OF THE LEGISLATURE. SOME OF US, IT IS TWO YEARS, SOME FOUR, AND SOME SIX YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THIS BODY. MY EXPERIENCE, 42 YEARS IN AGRIBUSINESS, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE, OF COURSE, IT HAS PREPARED ME WELL NOT ONLY FOR UNDERSTANDING AGRIBUSINESS BUT WORKING WITH PEOPLE AND BUILDING CONSENSUS AND GROWING COMPANIES AND GROWING AGRICULTURE. I WORKED FOR FARMERS, I HAVE WORKED WITH FARMERS, I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN BOARDS DEALING WITH AGRICULTURE. DURING THAT SAME TIME, I'VE SERVED ON THREE DIFFERENT RURAL PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS. DURING THAT TIME FRAME I LED A 4-H CLUB FOR 20 YEARS. I WAS A MEMBER OF THE TRI COUNTY FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. MY HISTORY GOES BACK TO MY BIRTH, THE FOURTH GENERATION INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE. MY SIX YEARS IN CITY GOVERNMENT, BOTH AS A COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE MEMBER AND AS A MAYOR, HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT AND AGAIN, PREPARED ME WELL FOR THE LEGISLATURE. I HAVE GOVERNED OVER TAXPAYERS. THEN WHEN FUNDING FOR SENIOR MEALS IN OUR COUNTY WAS CUT BECAUSE OF COUNTY BUDGET, WENT TO BAT AND WE GOT SENIORS' MEALS SUPPORTED AGAIN AT A LOCAL LEVEL AND IT MAINTAINS THEIR PROGRAM TODAY. WE WERE INVOLVED IN MANAGING A CITY BUDGET WHEN STATE AID WAS REDUCED AND CUT OUT OF MUNICIPALITIES. MY TWO YEARS IN THE LEGISLATURE, I HAVE SERVED ON WHAT I FEEL ARE TWO OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMITTEES TO THIS STATE. POSSIBLY THE MOST TWO CRITICAL TO THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THIS STATE AND THE GREATEST RESOURCE THAT WE HAVE IS WATER. THOSE TWO COMMITTEES BEING AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. NOW IN THE PAST, WE HAVE HAD DISCUSSION ABOUT MAYBE COMBINING THOSE TWO, AGRICULTURE DOES NOT GET AS MANY BILLS PRESENTED TO IT AS OTHERS. I THINK IT IS A VALUE TO BE ON BOTH COMMITTEES, BUT I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE FACT THAT WE NEED TO KEEP AGRICULTURE AS A SEPARATE COMMITTEE. IT IS THE BACKBONE OF NEBRASKA. IT IS THE BACKBONE OF MIDWEST AND WE NEED TO HAVE A FOCUS AND THAT NEEDS TO STAY AS A SEPARATE COMMITTEE. I'VE BEEN VERY BLESSED TO HAVE BEEN CHOSE TO THESE COMMITTEES AND I FEEL THAT MY COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER WILL STAY THERE. I WILL CONTINUE TO BE ON THESE TWO COMMITTEES AS LONG AS I SERVE IN THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE. THE CHALLENGE AND THE FOCUS FOR THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, ALONG WITH THE BILLS PRESENTED TO US, WILL

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BE TO BUILD THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN NEBRASKA. THERE'S BEEN MANY THINGS THAT I'VE SEEN. I GO BACK TO MY CHILDHOOD DAYS, MY SCHOOL DAYS, MY BUSINESS CAREER, AND NOW SERVING AS A MEMBER OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, THAT'S MY PASSION. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AS YOU CAST YOUR BALLOTS TODAY. I WILL WORK FOR AGRICULTURE. I DO NOT HAVE A LOT OF BILLS. I'M NOT ON THE FLOOR SPEAKING THAT MUCH, BUT MY FOCUS WILL BE TO BUILD AGRICULTURE AND BUILD NEBRASKA. CAN'T GO WITHOUT SAYING THANK YOU TO MY FAMILY AND MY WIFE FOR ALLOWING ME TO CONTINUE SERVING OTHERS. AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME BEFORE YOU. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR. ARE THERE ANY OTHER FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, THE CHAIR DECLARES THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO A VOTE. I WOULD APPOINT THE FOLLOWING THREE SENATORS AS TELLERS: SENATOR BOLZ, SENATOR KEN HAAR AND SENATOR SMITH. WHEN THE THREE OF YOU HAVE FINISHED VOTING, PLEASE COME FORWARD. SENATOR JOHNSON HAS BEEN ELECTED CHAIR OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR JOHNSON. WE ARE NOW MOVED TO ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. SENATOR MELLO, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. WELCOME FRESHMEN MEMBERS. TWO YEARS AGO I STOOD IN FRONT OF THIS BODY AND HUMBLY PUT MY NAME FORWARD AS A NOMINEE FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP. I ONLY PROMISE THINGS THAT I THINK I CAN GENUINELY DELIVER ON. AND THE THINGS I PROMISED THIS LEGISLATURE, TWO YEARS AGO, WAS MY ABILITY TO WORK HARD, MY ABILITY TO BE FAIR WITH MEMBERS IN THE COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE THE COMMITTEE, MY PROMISE TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS, BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE COMMITTEE. IN MY GENUINE DESIRE TO SEEK CONSENSUS IN VERY DIFFICULT ISSUES NOT JUST IN THE BUDGET, BUT OBVIOUSLY OTHER ISSUES WE KNEW THAT WOULD HAVE VERY BIG FISCAL IMPACTS. AND AS I SAID TWO YEARS AGO, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE DOESN'T SET PRIORITIES FOR THE STATE, THE LEGISLATURE SETS PRIORITIES. AND TWO YEARS AGO THOSE PRIORITIES, FROM THE RETURNING MEMBERS WILL REMEMBER THIS, WAS WATER FINANCING, WAS TAX REFORM, WAS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, AND IT WAS JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM. I THINK WE CAN LOOK BACK TWO YEARS AGO TO NOW AND REALIZE THAT WE WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE AN AWFUL LOT IN TWO YEARS ON THOSE FOUR KEY ISSUES IN THOSE FOUR KEY PRIORITIES. SO WE STAND HERE AGAIN TODAY, 18 NEW MEMBERS, A NUMBER OF RETURNING MEMBERS,

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AND IN SPEAKING WITH MOST OF YOU I HAVE HEARD YOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS--PRISON REFORM, TAX REFORM, PRIMARILY PROPERTY TAX REFORM, FIXING OUR BROKEN HHS SYSTEM, AND FINDING NEW WAYS TO LOOK AT EDUCATION FINANCE. I UNDERSTAND THERE WILL BE MORE ISSUES AND MORE PRIORITIES THAT COME OUT OF COMMITTEES THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS, BUT THOSE ARE THE PRIORITIES THAT YOU'VE EXPRESSED TO ME. AND AS YOUR CHAIRMAN OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, OUR COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THOSE. OUR COMMITTEE WILL HOPEFULLY ACT ON THOSE. BUT WE DON'T DO IN IT A VACUUM. WE DO IT WITH THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. WE DO IT WITH THE TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. ALL THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES HAVE AN IMPACT AND A SAY IN REGARDS TO THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE BUDGET AND THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE FISCAL POLICY. THAT WILL CONTINUE THE NEXT TWO YEARS AND WELL BEYOND THAT. WITH THAT SAID, WE HAVE GOT A LOT OF CHALLENGES AHEAD OF US, COLLEAGUES. YOU DON'T NEED TO HEAR THAT FROM ME AS YOU HAVE HEARD IT FROM CONSTITUENTS; YOU'VE HEARD IT FROM NEW MEMBERS, OLD MEMBERS ALIKE, AS WELL AS A VARIETY OF INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE STATE, IN THE BUSINESS OF THE STATE. BUT THE ONE THING THAT I THINK WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO, AND SOMETHING THAT DRIVES OUR POLICY AND DRIVES WHAT WE DO IN THE STATE BUDGET, IS OUR ABILITY TO COMPROMISE. THAT WHILE ONE SENATOR MAY WANT ANOTHER...THEY MAY WANT ONE THING AND ANOTHER SENATOR MAY WANT ANOTHER, THE IDEA OF COMPROMISE BRIDGES US TOGETHER AND FINDS A WAY FOR US TO GET TO YES. THAT YES MAY NOT BE WHAT ULTIMATELY I WANT AND MAY NOT BE ULTIMATELY WHAT YOU WANT, BUT ENOUGH OF US WANT TO SEE THAT. AND THAT IS THE WAY I WILL GUIDE OUR APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND THAT'S THE WAY I WILL ENCOURAGE FLOOR DEBATE, CONSENSUS BUILDING WITH OTHER COMMITTEES, AND SENATORS ON THE FLOOR. WITH THAT I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE FOR APPROPRIATIONS CHAIR. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU SENATOR MELLO. ARE THERE ANY FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR MELLOW.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR. THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR MELLO CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS SENATOR MELLO. WE WILL NOW MOVE TO ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE BANKING, COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

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COMMITTEE. SENATOR SCHEER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I HUMBLY RISE TO PLACE MY NAME IN NOMINATION FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BANKING, COMMERCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE. I BRING WITH IT A SKILL SET OF A LIFE IN MOST OF THOSE FIELDS. I BRING IT WITH...I BRING MYSELF FORWARD ALSO AS A PERSON THAT WILL WORK WITH EVERYONE. THAT WILL BE FAIR, WILL BE EFFECTIVE, AND THE COMMITTEE WILL BE EFFICIENT. I CAN'T PROMISE YOU EVERY ONE OF YOUR BILLS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. BUT I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL WORK WITH EVERYONE AND MYSELF AS CHAIR WILL WORK TO TRY TO DO OUR BEST TO CRAFT YOUR BILLS SO THAT THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL. EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN IDEAS, NONE OF US CAN GUARANTEE SUCCESS FOR ANYONE. BUT MY JOB IS JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO BE SUCCESSFUL WITH THE BILLS THAT YOU PRESENT. AND WITH THAT I WOULD ENCOURAGE AND ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THAT POSITION. THANK YOU.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHEER. ARE THERE ANY OTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATION BE CLOSED AND UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR SCHEER.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR SCHEER CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR SCHEER. BUSINESS AND LABOR? WE WILL NOW MOVE TO ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE. SENATOR BURKE HARR, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. COLLEAGUES, I RISE TO NOMINATE MYSELF TO BE THE CHAIR OF THE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE. COMING HERE, I FOUND A NICE NOTE FROM FORMER STATESMAN PETE PIRSCH. IT SAID--CLEAN OUT MY DESK, NOW YOURS. TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER AND QUIT RAMBLING ON AIMLESSLY. SO, FOLLOWING THE WISE WORDS OF PETE PIRSCH I WON'T SAY MUCH. I SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS. THE PAST TWO OF WHICH I SERVED AS THE COMMITTEE'S VICE CHAIRPERSON. MY TENURE WITH THE COMMITTEE AND MY COMMITMENT TO PROTECT THE BEST INTERESTS OF BOTH BUSINESS AND LABOR, I BELIEVE, QUALIFY ME FOR SUCH A POSITION. I HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS UPCOMING...I GUESS I HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR VOTE. THANK YOU.

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PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR. ARE THERE ANY FURTHER NOMINATIONS? IF NOT, SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR HARR.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR HARR CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR HARR. NEXT WE WILL ELECT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. ARE THERE ANY NOMINATIONS? SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND I CAN NOW SAY GOOD AFTERNOON COLLEAGUES. AND WELCOME BACK RETURNING SENATORS AND WELCOME ALSO TO THE NEW SENATORS. WE ALL ARE BEGINNING A REMARKABLE JOURNEY IN A GREAT INSTITUTION. SO TODAY I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT TO BE CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATURE'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE, A POSITION THAT I HAVE HELD FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. AND TWO YEARS AGO I RAN UNOPPOSED. AND IT DIDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO REALIZE WHY. BEING CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE IS NOT AN EASY TASK. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE. EDUCATION COMMANDS NEARLY HALF OUR BUDGET. EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE. I REMEMBER SALLY GANEM TELLING ME ONCE, SHE SAID, YOU KNOW, EVERYONE IS AN EXPERT IN EDUCATION BECAUSE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WE ARE ALL A PRODUCT OF IT AND I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THE EDUCATION EXPERIENCES THAT WE HAVE HAD AND QUALITY EXPERIENCES HAVE BROUGHT US ALL HERE TODAY. AND OF COURSE, THE ISSUES AND OPINIONS ARE MANY IN EDUCATION. SO AS I EMBARKED ON THAT JOURNEY TWO YEARS AGO, I DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS VERY HARD TO KEEP EVERYONE HAPPY. SOME PEOPLE, AS I BEGAN MY POSITION, THOUGHT THAT AS A RURAL SENATOR I WAS GOING TO ALWAYS SIDE WITH THE RURAL DISTRICTS. AS WE CONTINUED, SOME SAID SHE IS SIDING TOO MUCH WITH THE URBAN DISTRICTS. WELL, I PLEDGE TO YOU TODAY, AS I DID TWO YEARS AGO, THAT I WILL WORK HARD TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL NEBRASKANS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR ZIP CODE AND TO WORK ON IT IN A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE AND EQUITABLE MANNER. CERTAINLY THE ISSUES ARE MANY. STATE FUNDING FOR OUR 245 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, HOW WE IMPROVE LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS, DEALING WITH POVERTY AND HOW THAT IMPACTS THIS ACHIEVEMENT GAP. WE ARE GOING TO DEAL WITH THE LEARNING COMMUNITY. SENATOR MELLO TALKED ABOUT THE EMPHASIS THAT WE PUT

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ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. AND ONE THING I WANT TO STRIVE FOR IS ENCOURAGING COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AMONG ALL EDUCATION GROUPS TO CREATE EFFICIENCIES AND MORE EFFECTIVENESS. AND OF COURSE IN ALL OF THIS WE CANNOT FORGET THE TAXPAYER WHO FOOTS THE BILL ON A LOT OF THIS. WE HAVE HEARD THE MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF IS NEEDED, AND HOW WE ACHIEVE THAT, PARTICULARLY THROUGH HOW WE FUND OUR SCHOOLS, WILL PLAY OUT IN THE BILLS THAT WE WILL DEAL WITH THIS SESSION. I BELIEVE WE HAVE CERTAINLY HAVE A GREAT STATE AND WE HAVE A VERY GOOD EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, BUT WE ALL KNOW THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO DO AND WE CAN DO BETTER. SO AS EDUCATION CHAIR, I WOULD MAKE THIS PROMISE TO YOU--TO DO THE HARD WORK TO MAKE EDUCATION BETTER, TO LEAD THE COMMITTEE IN A DELIBERATIVE PROCESS THAT BRINGS TO YOU WELL THOUGHT OUT BILLS FOR YOU TO DEBATE AND FOR YOUR DECISION-MAKING. EDUCATION IS THE GREAT EQUALIZER. IS IT THE DOOR OPENER FOR A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES, NOT ONLY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, BUT FOR OUR FAMILIES, OUR COMMUNITIES, AND OUR STATE. SO JOIN ME IN THIS TASK. AND I PROMISE TO WORK HARD FOR YOU AND WITH YOU. THANK YOU.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU SENATOR SULLIVAN. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR SULLIVAN.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU. THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR SULLIVAN CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR SULLIVAN. WE WILL NOW MOVE TO ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON FOR THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE TODAY TO ASK MY FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE SUPPORT AS I RUN FOR THE CHAIR OF THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. DURING MY FIRST TWO YEARS IN THE LEGISLATURE, I HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE OF SERVING ON THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE ISSUES. THE ISSUES THAT FACE THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ARE ALWAYS INTERESTING AND DEAL WITH SOME CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AT TIMES. BUT, DURING MY TIME ON THAT COMMITTEE AND IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE, I HAVE GAINED A DEEP INTEREST AND RESPECT FOR THE ISSUES THAT WILL BE

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DEALT WITH ON GENERAL AFFAIRS. AND I BELIEVE THAT MOVING FORWARD, I WILL ALWAYS HAVE AN OPEN DOOR TO ANY MEMBER THAT HAS AN INTEREST IN ALCOHOL, GAMBLING, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, CEMETERIES, OR TOBACCO...AND THE ARTS. (LAUGHTER) SO WITH THAT, I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR VOTE, AND IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN ANY OF THOSE, AND I SHOULD GET ELECTED, I WOULD PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTACT ME. THANK YOU.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU SENATOR LARSON. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR LARSON.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR LARSON CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR LARSON. WE NOW MOVE TO ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. SENATOR MURANTE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR MURANTE: THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR NELSON. I RISE TODAY TO PLACE MY NAME AND NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, I HAVE SERVED ON THE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND IN MY LAST YEAR, AS VICE CHAIR OF THAT COMMITTEE, AND IN ADDITION TO MY SERVICE REGARDING THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE, I ALSO SERVE AS A STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR THE ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING STANDING COMMITTEE FOR NCSL. SIMPLY PUT, THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IS A PASSION OF MINE, BELIEVE IT OR NOT. AND THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I HAVE WANTED TO DO FOR A VERY LONG TIME. FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, I BELIEVE I HAVE DEMONSTRATED A RECORD OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, WORKING WITH PEOPLE, SOMETIMES WHO I DIDN'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH, SUCH AS THE CASE OF MY PREDECESSOR AND HOPEFULLY MY PREDECESSOR, SENATOR AVERY, IN THE POSITION OF GOVERNMENT CHAIR. BUT WE FOUND A WAY TO RESPECT EACH OTHER'S OPINIONS, TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE BOTH HAD A DESIRE TO MOVE THE STATE FORWARD AND TO PASS MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION WHICH MADE NEBRASKA A BETTER PLACE. THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO CONTINUE TO DO AS YOUR CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

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PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU SENATOR MURANTE. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR MURANTE.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR MURANTE CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR MURANTE. THE NEXT ELECTION IS FOR CHAIRPERSON OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE. SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND COLLEAGUES OF THE LEGISLATURE. AND I APOLOGIZE FOR MY VOICE TODAY, BUT AT LEAST I HAVE A VOICE. YESTERDAY, I DID NOT. AND FOR SOME OF YOU THAT'S PROBABLY A BLESSING, I DON'T KNOW. I SUBMIT MY NAME AS NOMINATION FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CHAIR. AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT LAST NIGHT I HAD A BIT OF ADVICE FROM SENATOR KINTNER ABOUT MY SPEECH. AND HIS FIRST SUGGESTION I RESPECTFULLY DECLINED TO PROCEED WITH, AND HE TOLD ME I SHOULD JUST STAND UP AND SAY--VOTE FOR ME--AND SIT DOWN. BUT HE REMINDED ME, AND I HOPE HE DIDN'T...DOESN'T MIND HEARING THIS AGAIN, BUT HE REMINDED ME THAT TWO YEARS AGO I HAD SHARED A PERSONAL COMMENT AS I CAME TO TALK ABOUT BEING CHAIR OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE. AND THAT WAS, THAT I MAKE A POINT EVERY MORNING TO GO TO THE ROTUNDA AND COME INTO THE CHAMBERS AND WALK DOWN THE CENTER AISLE. AND I DO SO BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME OF THE HISTORY AND THE LEGACY OF THE LEGISLATURE. WE ARE ALL SO PRIVILEGED TO SERVE NEBRASKA IN THIS LEGISLATURE. AND IN THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, I ALSO RESPECT THAT LEGACY OF SERVICE. BECAUSE FOR MANY OF OUR VERY VULNERABLE CITIZENS EVERY DAY FOR THEM IS A CHALLENGE AND A TRIAL. AND THEY COUNT ON US TO HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CARE AND THEIR PROTECTION. IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE. AS ITS CHAIR FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS, I HAVE HAD SOME OF THE MOST DEDICATED SENATORS SERVE ON THAT COMMITTEE THROUGH ALL THE WORK THAT WE DID ON CHILD WELFARE, FOSTER CARE, AND ON AND ON AND ON. I SEE MY COLLEAGUES WHO ARE ON THE COMMITTEE NODDING. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT TO CONTINUE, BECAUSE ONE OF THE JOYS OF BEING THE CHAIR OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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COMMITTEE IS HELPING EACH OF YOU WHEN A CONSTITUENT CALLS AND SAYS--I NEED HELP, I NEED TO KNOW SOME INFORMATION BECAUSE I HAVE A CHILD WITH A CHALLENGING DISABILITY. AND YOU HAVE COME AND SAID--HELP ME THROUGH THIS MAZE. AND THAT IN THAT WAY I HAVE WORKED WITH ALMOST ALL OF THE RETURNING SENATORS AND IT HAS BEEN A JOY TO HELP YOU. AND SO WITH THAT, IT WOULD BE AN HONOR TO CONTINUE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU SENATOR CAMPBELL. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR CAMPBELL.

PRESIDENT NELSON: MEMBERS, THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR CAMPBELL CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR CAMPBELL. OUR NEXT ELECTION WILL BE FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. SENATOR SEILER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR SEILER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. IF YOU WANT TO WORK, ASK TO GET ON JUDICIARY. WE HAVE, FROM THIS SUMMER'S HEARINGS, GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE THIS SUMMER, JUST ONE EXAMPLE. WE SUBPOENAED ALL THE PRISON REFORMS...THE PRISONS' E-MAILS. WE HAD 20,000 TO GO THROUGH. LET ALONE SUBPOENAIING ALL THE WITNESSES AND HAVING THE HEARINGS, WHICH WERE JUST...AS YOU FOLLOWED IN THE PAPER OR WATCHED IT ON TELEVISION, AND I KNOW A LOT OF YOU WATCHED ON TELEVISION, THAT WAS JUST THE ICING ON THE CAKE. ALL THE WORK THAT HAD TO GO INTO IT BEFORE WE GOT TO THE SUBPOENAS, BEFORE WE GOT TO THE TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS. AND NOW THAT IS ALL BEHIND US. WHAT WE HAVE NOW IS TO FORM ALL THE LEGISLATION FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS AND THE COMMITTEE ON (LB)424, AND PUT THAT IN TO LAW AND THAT'S GOING TO BE HUGE. AND I'M REALLY...IN A WAY, I GUESS SOME PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT ME LIKE I'M SILLY, BUT IN A WAY I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT. THE COMMITTEE IS GOING TO BE A GREAT COMMITTEE TO BE ON. BUT WE ARE GOING TO WORK. WE ARE REALLY GOING TO HAVE TO WORK, ESPECIALLY IN THIS NEXT TEN DAYS. WE GOT TEN DAYS TO TAKE ALL SUMMER AND ALL FALL'S WORK AND PUT IT INTO BILLS AND GET THEM FILED. SO, I AM ASKING FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THIS COMMITTEE. I HAVE HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE WORKING ON THE COMMITTEE WITH

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COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS. AND ON...THE COMMITTEE ON LB424, IN WHICH I SERVED AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THAT COMMITTEE. AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE, MEANING ALL OF YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR SEILER. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ON BEHALF OF SENATOR SEILER. THANK YOU. (LAUGHTER)

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR SEILER.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR SEILER CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR SEILER. OUR NEXT ELECTION WILL BE FOR CHAIR OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. ARE THERE NOMINATIONS? SENATOR SCHEER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MISTER...

PRESIDENT NELSON: SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR SCHILZ: I WAS LIKE, UH-OH, WE GOT A PROBLEM. (LAUGHTER) THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. GOOD MORNING EVERYONE. WELCOME, CONGRATULATIONS. HERE WE ARE ON OUR FIRST DAY AND IT IS GOOD TO GET BACK TO WORK. I PUT MY NAME AND NOMINATION FOR THE CHAIR OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. I HAVE SERVED ON THAT COMMITTEE NOW FOR SIX YEARS. AND BEFORE THAT I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN NATURAL RESOURCES ISSUES STATEWIDE, ON THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS FOR ABOUT THE PAST 20 YEARS. SO, I BELIEVE THAT I HAVE THE EXPERIENCE TO TAKE THIS FORWARD, TO DO THE JOB OF THE CHAIR OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, AND TO DO THE JOB TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY FOR THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. AND HAVING SERVED AS THE CHAIR OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, DO I UNDERSTAND WHAT IT TAKES, WHAT WILL BE ASKED OF

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THE CHAIR, AND I'M READY TO TAKE ON THOSE DUTIES. SO WITH THAT, I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS POSITION. THANK YOU.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR SCHILZ.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR SCHILZ CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR SCHILZ. WE WILL NOW MOVE TO ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEBRASKA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS. WHERE IS HE? SENATOR NORDQUIST YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. I'M SORRY, SENATOR LINDSTROM WAS FIRST IN QUEUE. SENATOR LINDSTROM, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED

SENATOR LINDSTROM: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND COLLEAGUES. I STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY SEEKING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NEBRASKA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS COMMITTEE. FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO SENATOR NORDQUIST FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE COMMITTEE. I REALIZE THAT A NEWLY ELECTED MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE DOES NOT USUALLY RUN FOR CHAIRMANSHIP. HOWEVER, WE ARE IN A UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCE OF HAVING 18 NEW MEMBERS OF THE BODY AND DUE TO TERM LIMITS WE MUST TAKE ON LEADERSHIP ROLES. I HAVE SPENT OVER A DECADE AS A FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR TWO OF THE LARGEST INVESTMENT FIRMS IN THE WORLD. AND I HAVE MANAGED TO FIND CONTRIBUTIONS, DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS AND CASH BALANCE ACCOUNTS. OVER HALF OF MY CLIENTS ARE RETIREES, SO I UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES THEY AND THOSE SAVING FOR RETIREMENT ARE FACING EVERY DAY. NEBRASKANS STILL REMEMBER THE TUMULTUOUS YEARS OF 2001, 2008 AND 2009 AND THE STRESSES OF BAD ECONOMY AND MARKET CAN BRING. WE MUST REMAIN GOOD STEWARDS OF THE DOLLARS OUR CITIZENS HAVE SAVED. OUR ECONOMY IS IN AN INTERESTING POINT. OIL PRICES HAVE RETREATED TO MID-1990 LEVELS. AND IN 2014, THE MARKET HIT RECORD HIGHS. HOWEVER, INTEREST RATES REMAIN LOW WITH THE 10-YEAR TREASURY HOVERING AT 2 PERCENT. AND MY FEAR IS THAT THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE OF PROJECTED RETURNS IS QUITE POSSIBLY UNATTAINABLE. AS THE CHAIR OF THE NEBRASKA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS COMMITTEE, I WILL BE MINDFUL OF NOT ONLY WHAT THE NEXT YEAR WILL BRING BUT ALSO THE NEXT 10 AND 20 AND

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WILL PROVIDE STRATEGIES TO ALLOW US TO UPHOLD OUR GUARANTEES TO THE PARTICIPANTS WHILE INSURING THAT THE BODY WORKS IN A NONPARTISAN MANNER TO ADDRESS UNFUNDED LIABILITIES. FOR INSTANCE, MAKING SURE THAT THE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNDERLYING INVESTMENTS ARE REASONABLE WITH THE AMOUNT OF ASSETS UNDER OUR PLANS. THIS IS A COMMITTEE I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT. AND I BELIEVE THE EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD WILL TRANSLATE INTO GOOD POLICY DECISIONS FOR OUR RETIREMENT SYSTEMS GOING FORWARD. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY THAT I'M EXCITED ABOUT TAKING ON. THESE ARE FRIENDS, FAMILY, NEIGHBORS WHO HAVE WORKED A LIFETIME TO ACCUMULATE THEIR SAVINGS. BECAUSE OF THE RETIREMENT PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA, FOR THE MOST PART HEALTHY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE HAS THE SKILLS AND BACKGROUND TO NOT ONLY MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS BUT TO ANTICIPATE FLUCTUATIONS AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK. IF FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO WIN YOUR VOTES, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TIRELESSLY WITH YOU AS YOUR RETIREMENT SYSTEMS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. THANK YOU AND I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR LINDSTROM. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND COLLEAGUES. I RISE TODAY TO HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR VOTE TO CONTINUE MY SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS COMMITTEE. I BEGAN MY WORK ON NEBRASKA PUBLIC PENSIONS ABOUT A DECADE AGO, FIRST AS RESEARCH ANALYST FOR THE COMMITTEE WHERE I MONITORED STATE AGENCIES, ANALYZED LEGISLATION, OCCASIONALLY FELL ASLEEP READING ACTUARIAL STUDIES. AND AFTER BEING ELECTED, I HAD THE HONOR OF SERVING AS VICE CHAIR FOR TWO YEARS WORKING CLOSELY WITH CHAIRMAN PANKONIN AND APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN, LAVON HEIDEMANN, AS WE BEGAN TO ADJUST TO THE IMPACT OF THE GREAT RECESSION. I COME TO THIS POSITION, AFTER SERVING FOUR YEARS AS CHAIR NOW, FROM TWO PERSPECTIVES. FIRST, AS A SON WHOSE FATHER DIED OF CANCER WHEN I WAS A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. AND IT WAS THE PENSION BENEFIT TO HIM AS A STATE WORKER THAT KEPT MY FAMILY OUT OF POVERTY. WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE 120,000 NEBRASKANS AND THEIR FAMILIES COUNTING ON US TO DELIVER ON THE PROMISES WE HAVE MADE TO THEM. BUT THE OTHER PERSPECTIVE I COME FROM IS AS A NEW FATHER. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE DON'T PASS UNFUNDED OBLIGATIONS ONTO MY DAUGHTER, ELIN'S, GENERATION. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE BENEFITS WE ARE PROMISING ARE BENEFITS WE CAN DELIVER, CAN DELIVER RESPONSIBLY WITHIN OUR BUDGET AND DON'T DRAIN OUR STATE BUDGET

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SO WE CAN'T INVEST IN IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF OUR ECONOMY LIKE EDUCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE. I'M PROUD OF THE WORK OUR COMMITTEE HAS DONE SINCE THE MARKET CRASH OF 2008 AND 2009 WHERE IN THOSE TWO YEARS WE LOST \$2.1 BILLION OF ASSETS. SINCE THAT TIME, WE HAVE TAKEN ACTION. IN OUR STATE'S LARGEST PLAN, THE SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN WHICH HAS 41,000 ACTIVE MEMBERS, 22,000 RETIRED MEMBERS, \$10 BILLION OF ASSETS, WE SCALE BACK BENEFITS, PERMANENTLY INCREASE CONTRIBUTION RATES AND BECAUSE OF THOSE ACTIONS THIS BODY TOOK THAT PLAN HAS NOW REBOUNDED TO 83 PERCENT FUNDED, AND IS PROJECTED TO BE 100 PERCENT FUNDED BY THE END OF THIS DECADE. OUR ACTUARIES WERE ASTOUNDED WITH THE TURN AROUND THAT WE HAVE MADE IN THAT PLAN. I'M PROUD TO REPORT THAT ALL OF OUR RETIREMENT PLANS NOW ARE OVER THE 80 PERCENT FUNDED LEVEL, WHICH IS A NATIONALLY ACCEPTED BENCHMARK FOR RETIREMENT PLAN HEALTH. AND WE ALWAYS...WE AS A STATE HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN IN THE TOP 10 OF STATES FOR PENSION FUNDING. AND IT IS BECAUSE WE DON'T KICK THE CAN DOWN THE ROAD, LIKE OTHER STATES AND CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY HAVE DONE. AND LAST YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR STATE HISTORY, OUR COMMITTEE TOOK ACTION AND ESTABLISHED OVERSIGHT FOR PENSIONS OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE CORRECTIVE PLANS IN PLACE IF THEIR PENSIONS ARE UNDERFUNDED SO WE DON'T SEE MORE SITUATIONS...WE DON'T SEE ANY SITUATIONS LIKE DETROIT IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. EVEN WITH THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, I'M EVEN MORE PROUD OF HOW WE GOT THINGS DONE. WE DID IT THE NEBRASKA WAY. WE HAVE GREAT COLLABORATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH COUNTY BOARDS, WITH SCHOOL BOARDS, WITH SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, WITH JUDGES, THE STATE PATROL OFFICERS, WITH OUR STATE WORKERS AND OUR COUNTY WORKERS. WE ALL COME TO THE TABLE KNOWING THAT TOUGH DECISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE AND WE ALL COME TO THE TABLE LOOKING AND WORKING TOWARDS SOLUTIONS. COLLEAGUES, I SIMPLY OFFER MY EXPERIENCE AS COMMITTEE STAFF, VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, AND I OFFER MY WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH EACH OF YOU ON THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES TO THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE. THE GOOD NEWS IS, FOLKS, WHETHER IT IS SENATOR LINDSTROM OR SENATOR NORDQUIST, A GOOD-LOOKING SWEDE WILL CHAIR THE COMMITTEE. THANK YOU.
(LAUGHTER)

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, THE CHAIR DECLARES THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED. WE WILL PROCEED TO A VOTE AT THIS TIME. I WOULD APPOINT THE FOLLOWING THREE SENATORS AS TELLERS: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, SENATOR GARRETT, AND SENATOR MELLO. THE RESULTS OF

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THE BALLOTING ARE AS FOLLOWS: SENATOR NORDQUIST HAS BEEN DECLARED THE WINNER. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR NORDQUIST. OUR NEXT ELECTION WILL BE FOR CHAIR OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND MAY I SAY, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT IT IS NICE TO SEE YOU IN THE CHAMBER AGAIN AND TO RECOGNIZE YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE AS BOTH THE STATE SENATOR, AS WELL AS YOUR SHORTER TERM, BUT JUST AS ADMIRABLE SERVICE AS OUR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. SO IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU. BUT ENOUGH ABOUT YOU. I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE MY NAME IN NOMINATION FOR CHAIR OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. AS SENATOR HADLEY SAID, WE ALL BRING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE TO THIS BODY. AND I, OBVIOUSLY, BRING YEARS OF SERVICE, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO KNOW ME, IN RUNNING HOSPITALS, HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATION. I REALLY NEVER ASPIRED TO THAT CAREER LINE SPECIFICALLY IN HEALTH CARE, BUT I HAD AN INTEREST FROM A YOUNG AGE IN MANAGING PEOPLE AND RESOURCES. AND AFTER I FINISHED MY COLLEGE AND AFTER I FINISHED MY MILITARY OBLIGATION HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. AND PROVIDED WITH THAT OPPORTUNITY, PROVIDED WITH GOOD MENTORSHIP, AND HARD WORK, I WOULD LIKE TO THINK PEOPLE WOULD SAY OF ME, I HAD A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL CAREER. BUT WHEN I CAME DOWN TO LINCOLN AS A STATE SENATOR, I KNEW I WOULD HAVE TO EARN MY STRIPES ALL OVER AGAIN. SAME SCENARIO--OPPORTUNITIES, WHICH DOWN HERE WE CALL TERM LIMITS, CERTAINLY PLAYED A ROLE BUT I HAD GOOD MENTORS AND HELP FROM A NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND I WORKED HARD AND I THINK, ULTIMATELY, EARNED THE TRUST OF THE BODY SO THAT I WAS ABLE TO MOVE TO A LEADERSHIP POSITION DOWN HERE. THAT HAD BEEN MY HOPE WHEN I CAME DOWN HERE. IN SEVERAL COMPONENTS, BUT SPECIFICALLY HEADING UP THE BANKING, COMMERCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE, I ENJOYED THAT A LOT. IT WAS A VERY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE, ENJOYABLE, DIFFICULT AT TIMES. BUT WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAD THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, WHICH I RECOGNIZED TAKES MORE TIME, MORE COMMIT THE, MORE HARD WORK, IT WAS THE SORT OF CHALLENGE THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO AND THAT I THRIVE IN. AND THAT'S WHY I'M DOING THIS. RECOGNIZING THAT THERE HAS BEEN GOOD WORK, HARD WORK DONE BY A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS, CERTAINLY THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. ITS WORK AS A TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE FEEDS INTO THAT, AND BY THIS BODY IN OUR DEBATE, AND I WOULD, IF ELECTED BY YOU TO SERVE IN THAT CAPACITY, PROMISE TO BE JUST AS DILIGENT AS I WAS IN MY PAST LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND LEAD THAT CONVERSATION FORWARD WITH FAIRNESS AND FULL DISCUSSION AND DEBATE AND TRY AND BRING TO YOU THINGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH NEBRASKA'S TAX POLICY FOR NEBRASKANS, AT THE SAME TIME NOT

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JEOPARDIZE THOSE SERVICES THAT ARE ALSO IMPORTANT TO NEBRASKANS. THANK YOU AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR GLOOR.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR GLOOR CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR GLOOR. OUR NEXT ELECTION WILL BE FOR CHAIR OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. SENATOR SMITH, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING COLLEAGUES. IT'S AN HONOR TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY AND TO PLACE MY NAME INTO NOMINATION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CHAIR. TO MY FRIENDS THAT I HAVE SERVED WITH DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS, WELCOME BACK AND I HOPE YOU HAD A RESTFUL BREAK. TO MY NEW COLLEAGUES, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BECOMING NEBRASKA STATE SENATORS. YOU ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK ON AN AMAZING JOURNEY. AND TO MY WIFE AND CHILDREN WITH ME TODAY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE, YOUR SUPPORT, AND FOR HELPING ME TO SERVE IN THE LEGISLATURE. COLLEAGUES, EARLIER THIS YEAR I SENT TO EACH OF YOU A LETTER EXPRESSING MY INTEREST IN SEEKING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF SERVING AS THE VICE CHAIR OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, AND HAVE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PAST TWO CHAIRPERSONS, SENATOR DUBAS AND SENATOR FISCHER. I SHARE MY PREDECESSORS' PASSIONS FOR THIS IMPORTANT COMMITTEE AND RECOGNIZE ITS VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR STATE. FOR MY NEW COLLEAGUES, I HAVE PREVIOUSLY SERVED ON BUSINESS AND LABOR, URBAN AFFAIRS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEES. I AM A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, AND PRIOR TO THE LEGISLATURE SPENT 30 YEARS IN THE ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITY BUSINESS. I BELIEVE MY BACKGROUND SERVES THIS COMMITTEE VERY WELL. TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOUCH EACH OF OUR LIVES AND CONNECTS US. BE IT THE MOST WESTERN OR EASTERN CITY IN OUR STATE, OR THE LARGEST OR LEAST POPULATED COUNTY, WE ARE ALL TOUCHED AND CONNECTED BY THE COMMON CARRIER,

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HIGHWAY AND MOTOR VEHICLE ISSUES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THIS COMMITTEE. I PROMISE YOU THAT I WILL NOT TAKE LIGHTLY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS COMMITTEE AND I HUMBL Y ASK FOR YOUR VOTE TO CONFIRM ME AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR SMITH. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR SMITH.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR SMITH CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR SMITH. WE NOW MOVE TO ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON FOR THE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES. I AM HONORED TO STAND HERE TODAY AND ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO SERVE YOU AND OUR FELLOW CITIZENS OF NEBRASKA AS CHAIR OF THE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. IT HAS BEEN MY HONOR TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THIS COMMITTEE. IN THAT ROLE I HAVE BEEN WORKING OVER THE INTERIM WITH THE OUTGOING CHAIR AND WITH LEGAL COUNSEL TO PREPARE FOR THE WORK THAT I HOPE TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO DO WITH EACH OF YOU TO WORK ON BILLS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS ISSUES IN EACH OF YOUR COMMUNITIES. I ALSO BRING OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS AN ACADEMIC AND ANALYST ON ISSUES OF HOW TO BEST CRAFT POLICY THAT WORKS WELL ON THE GROUND, OR WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD. IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM, WE AS STATE SENATORS ESTABLISH THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. IT IS OUR JOB TO ENSURE THAT NEBRASKA STATE LAW ESTABLISHES PARAMETERS THAT EMPOWER OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO THRIVE WITH EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS. I CONSIDER THIS ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH EACH OF YOU TO CARRY OUT THIS RESPONSIBILITY IF YOU CHOOSE TO VOTE ME AS CHAIR. I RECOGNIZE AND PLEDGE TO BE ATTENTIVE TO THESE ISSUES FOR ALL OF OUR COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE. THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE IS URBAN AFFAIRS, BUT THE ISSUES THAT WE ADDRESS IN THE COMMITTEE

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ADDRESS LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES FROM OUR SMALLEST RURAL VILLAGES TO OUR LARGEST METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY. AND I PLEDGE TO WORK WITH YOU ON ISSUES THAT YOUR COMMUNITIES ARE ADDRESSING AND BUILD IDEAS THAT YOU HAVE TO TRY TO CRAFT THE BEST BILLS AND HAVE THE MOST EFFECTIVE DEBATE ON HOW WE SHOULD MOVE FORWARD IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA TO HAVE THIS IMPORTANT FRAMEWORK FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO THRIVE. I THANK MY COLLEAGUES WITH WHOM I HAVE SERVED FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND MENTORSHIP AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH OUR NEW COLLEAGUES. I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE AND PLEDGE TO SERVE YOU AND OUR NEBRASKA CITIZENS TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES. THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. ARE THERE FURTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR CRAWFORD.

PRESIDENT NELSON: MEMBERS, THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR CRAWFORD CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR CRAWFORD. WE NOW MOVE TO SELECT COMMITTEES AND OUR FIRST VOTE WILL BE FOR CHAIRPERSON OF THE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE. SENATOR HOWARD YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR HOWARD: MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, I MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE SPECIAL AND SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON BY SECRET BALLOT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS? SEEING NONE, SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION. (SIC) ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU AGAIN, SENATOR HOWARD. THE QUESTION IS THE MOTION TO PROCEED TO THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE SPECIAL AND SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. ALL RIGHT. WE NOW PROCEED TO ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE RULES COMMITTEE. SENATOR GARRETT, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I RISE TO PLACE MY NAME IN CONSIDERATION FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE RULES COMMITTEE. AFTER CAREFUL

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CONSIDERATION AND DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING DESIRE TO SERVE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA, I HAVE DECIDED TO PLACE MY NAME IN NOMINATION FOR CHAIR OF THE RULES COMMITTEE. THROUGH SERVING THIS PAST SESSION IN THE LEGISLATURE, I HAVE GAINED A TRUE APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RULES UNDER WHICH WE OPERATE AS WE STRIVE TO MAKE IMPORTANT AND MEANINGFUL POLICY TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ALL NEBRASKANS. I HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR THE INSTITUTION IN WHICH WE ARE HONORED TO SERVE AND I PLEDGE TO ALWAYS BE FAIR, HONEST, AND IMPARTIAL. IF ELECTED, I WILL ALWAYS CONDUCT THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMMITTEE WITH THE GREATEST INTEGRITY AND RESPECT FOR THE LEGISLATURE. I HUMBLY AND RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT FOR ELECTION AS YOUR NEXT CHAIR OF THE RULES COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR GARRETT. SENATOR HOWARD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR HOWARD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR GARRETT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: YOU HAVE HEARD THE MOTION THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND THAT SENATOR GARRETT BE NOMINATED BY ACCLAMATION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR GARRETT. PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE IV...IS THAT RIGHT? WE NOW MOVE TO SELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE. SENATOR MURANTE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR MURANTE: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. EARLIER, I HAD THE GOOD PLEASURE OF NOMINATING MYSELF TO THE COMMITTEE THAT I SAID WAS MY PASSION--GOVERNMENT. BUT NOW I GET TO NOMINATE MY SUCCESSOR FOR MY FAVORITE COMMITTEE, THE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE. BUT YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T REALIZE UNTIL THIS VERY DAY THE GRAVITY OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE. BECAUSE I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU BACK JUST A FEW HOURS, BECAUSE I LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY TO WHAT SENATOR CHAMBERS SAYS, AND HE SAID THAT HE WOULD RUN BUT FOR FEAR OF LOSING THE LAST ELECTION OF THE DAY, SO HE WAS CONFIDENT HE COULD GET ELECTED SPEAKER, HE WAS SURE THAT HE COULD GET ELECTED APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR. BUT THAT UNREACHABLE STAR, THE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE, DETERRED HIM FROM RUNNING FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE FOR HAVING TO RESIGN FOR ALL OF THE COMMITTEES THAT HE HAD JUST

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BEEN ELECTED TO. THAT IS HOW IMPORTANT THE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE IS. AND I HAVE BEEN PREPARING A SPEECH FOR THE LAST YEAR TO NOMINATE WHO I THOUGHT WOULD BE THE NEXT ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, THE MOST FREQUENT ATTENDEE OF THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE, SENATOR ADAM MORFELD, AND IT WAS A GREAT SPEECH. I MEAN THERE WAS A LOT OF GOOD ONE-LINERS IN THERE FOR SENATOR MORFELD. BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT HE IS NOT THE YOUNGEST INCOMING FRESHMAN AND THE PERSON...SO WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FOREGO THAT SPEECH, MAYBE IN A FILIBUSTER LATER THIS YEAR I WILL BRING IT OUT. BUT, I THINK THE PERSON WHO CAN BEST MAINTAIN, NOW THAT WE HAVE RESTORED DIGNITY AND HONOR TO THE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE, IS SENATOR MATT HANSEN. SO I ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO VOTE FOR SENATOR HANSEN AND I NOMINATE HIM FOR THIS POSITION. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR MURANTE. ARE THERE ANY OTHER...OR FURTHER NOMINATIONS? IF NOT, THEN WE...SENATOR GARRETT, FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GARRETT: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED AND A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY ACCLAMATION BE CAST FOR SENATOR HANSEN.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE MOTION, MEMBERS, BEFORE YOU IS THE MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND DECLARE SENATOR HANSEN ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR HANSEN. PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4, THE CONSTITUTION, I RECOGNIZE SENATOR NORDQUIST FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR NORDQUIST: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT A COMMITTEE OF THREE BE APPOINTED TO ESCORT THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE CHAMBER TO DELIVER THE ELECTION RETURNS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 2014.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE MOTION TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO ESCORT THE SECRETARY OF STATE. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. I APPOINT SENATORS MURANTE, WATERMEIER, AND BLOOMFIELD TO ESCORT THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DELIVER THE ELECTION RETURNS. WOULD THE THREE SENATORS NAMED PLEASE REFIRE TO THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER. I RECOGNIZE THE SERGEANT AT ARMS.

SERGEANT AT ARMS, RON WITKOWSKI: MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR COMMITTEE

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NOW ESCORTING NEBRASKA SECRETARY OF STATE, JOHN GALE.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

SECRETARY OF STATE, JOHN GALE: THANK YOU. MR. CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE, I DELIVER TO YOU THE ABSTRACTS OF THE 2014 GENERAL ELECTION FROM THE 93 COUNTIES IN NEBRASKA FOR CANVAS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, MR. SECRETARY OF STATE. WILL THE COMMITTEE PLEASE ESCORT SECRETARY OF STATE, JOHN GALE, FROM THE CHAMBER? SENATOR KOLOWSKI, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I MOVE, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4, TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE CANDIDATES STATED THEREIN BE DECLARED DULY ELECTED.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4, THE NEBRASKA CONSTITUTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR A MOTION.

SENATOR GLOOR: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE TO ARRANGE TO HOLD THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES FOR THE NEWLY-ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015, AT 1:30 P.M.

PRESIDENT NELSON: MEMBERS, THE QUESTION IS THE MOTION TO HOLD INAUGURAL CEREMONIES. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK, DO YOU HAVE ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, ANNOUNCEMENT: COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES WILL MEET AT 2:30, COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AT 2:30 IN ROOM 1524...2:30, 1524, COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT NELSON: SENATOR HADLEY, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SPEAKER HADLEY: FELLOW SENATORS, FOR YOUR SCHEDULING PURPOSES, WE WILL BE CONVENING THE NEXT TWO DAYS AT 10:00 A.M. ON FRIDAY, I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A SPEAKER'S MEMO OUTLINING ADDITIONAL CONVENING TIMES FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF SESSION AND SOME KEY DATES FOR OUR 2015 SESSION. IN ADDITION TO BILL INTRODUCTION TOMORROW

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MORNING, WE WILL BE RECESSING AROUND NOON AND THEN RECONVENING AT 1:30 FOR INAUGURAL CEREMONIES FOR STATE AND CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS. PLEASE KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU WILL BE ASKED TO SERVE ON ESCORT COMMITTEES AND THOSE MEMBERS WILL BE LISTED ON TOMORROW'S AGENDA. I APPRECIATE THE AFTERNOON TO LAST...I ANTICIPATE THE AFTERNOON TO LAST NO MORE THAN ONE HOUR. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MR. CLERK.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, PRIORITY MOTION: SENATOR SULLIVAN WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN THE BODY UNTIL THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 8, AT 10 A.M.

PRESIDENT NELSON: THANK YOU. THE QUESTION IS THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. WE ARE ADJOURNED.