

March 1, 1972

(start belt #1)

PRESIDENT: The chair would also like to announce that for those of you who were not aware, there will be a celebration this afternoon of Nebraska's 105th birthday in the rotunda at 4:00. We do plan to recess in time for this. I suppose that it is presumptuous of the Chair to make sure that you are all there, but I probably shouldn't announce this because some of you will probably plant accordingly, but I am the speaker and Mrs. Exon however should make up for that as she will cut the cake.

CLERK: Read

PRESIDENT: At this time the Chair would like to introduce and recognize Senator Cal Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the legislature, this being the 105th anniversary of our state it is a great, it is with a great deal of pleasure that we bring a man to say a few words to us this morning on behalf of another anniversary that Nebraska is celebrating this year, our Arbor Day Centennial, so it is with pleasure that I present to you on behalf of the Arbor Day Centennial committee, the director of our centennial Mr. Tom Andreas who will say a few words to us on Arbor Day.

MR. ANDREAS: Thank you Cal, Mr. President, members of the legislature, I would have to start this by saying that this is really a labor of love. We are starting our 2nd 100th year as far as Arbor Day is concerned. I might relate a story that I told in Grand Island not too long ago about how inadequate I feel after I see the tremendous cooperation of the people in your communities. I have a Greek background, I like Ethnic stories especially if they are about my people. It a the story that I want to relate is one that happened to an Uncle of mine who came over from the old country to spend some 20 years studying the English language and could never really master it. He felt completely inadequate and when it came time for him to appear before the Federal Judge and try to seek citizenship, the night before he said well I'll just throw myself on the mercy of the court thank them for their 20 years of understanding and just beg them to allow me to stay in this great country of ours, tell them how inadequate I feel and just take it from there and just thank them for allowing me to be a part of the country. The next day they called his name and when he appeared before the judge and the judge raised his hand and asked him a question and said you want to wait a minute, I've got a couple of things I want to say to you. He said I've been in the country for 20 years and I'm going to try to hard and I'm going to go to school 3 nights a week, and I'm going to try real hard to be a good American citizen I'm no can master the English language so all I'm going to say is thank you for your time, thank you for your 20 years and for understanding me and I'm a pretty good citizen give me permission to stay. He started to turn his back and the judge said. Wait a minute, as long as I'm