

March 5, 1986

SPEAKER NICHOL PRESIDING

SPEAKER NICHOL: Welcome to the Legislature. We have with us this morning our Chaplain, Dr. Robert Palmer of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. Would you please rise.

DR. PALMER: (Prayer offered.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you again, Dr. Palmer. We appreciate you. Record your presence as you come in please. I would like to have your attention. I understand that I have made a very bad faux pas the last three days but I didn't seem to remember that I had been reminded to do it, and that is that during this week we pay tribute to five ladies this week, and I went through Monday without realizing it, went through Tuesday without realizing it, and somebody said I should have known about it yesterday, so we are going to try to catch up this morning. I understand Senator Miller has the first part of it, and Senator Nelson has the second part, and I believe Senator Warner has the third part, and so we will catch up this morning on that. Senator Miller, please.

SENATOR MILLER: Yes, Mr. President and members, we are honoring Nebraska ladies who have been introduced to the Hall of Fame and I have the opportunity to introduce the first as she was a resident of the 37th District and, of course, her name was Willa Cather. She was Nebraska's noted novelist from Red Cloud and she was inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1963. During her lifetime, she received many other honors including the Pulitzer prize and it is still considered one of the most outstanding...she is still considered one of the most outstanding novelists of this century. I would like to give you a little history of her background as it is quite interesting. Willa Cather was born in Frederick County, Virginia in 1873. That is not very long ago as you think about it in a span of time. She moved with her family to a farm in Webster County which is a county in south central Nebraska, south of the City of Kearney when she was nine-years old. The following year she moved to the county to the west, Franklin County, to reside in Red Cloud and she continued her close observation of people and places in this rural setting. After her graduation from the University of Nebraska in 1895, she worked for a Lincoln newspaper for a short time. Then she moved to Pittsburgh where she worked for a newspaper and a