

April 28, 1987

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: If you would like to take your seats a moment, please, we have with us this morning for the last time Dr. Robert Palmer who has been with us...how long, Dr. Palmer?

DR. ROBERT PALMER: Twenty-three years.

PRESIDENT: Twenty-three years. And he is going to give us our invocation this morning. Would you please rise.

DR. ROBERT PALMER: I want to say a word of profound gratitude to this body, for those who are standing here and for those who have served with us in the past. To be accorded the privilege of being a part of this assembly for nearly a quarter of a century is something that will always remain a most important part of my life, of my ministry and, frankly, of my reason for remaining in Nebraska this long. Someone said that everyone must blow their own nose, make their own love and say their own prayers and yet you have enabled me to stand here for 23 years, along with others, and offer prayers with you and for you for this state and for ourselves, asking God's guidance upon each one of us. Also, for those who work with us, in the offices and in the corridors and in the rotunda and upstairs and throughout the building, I am also grateful for the many kindnesses you have accorded to me. As many of you realize, I am leaving tomorrow morning for a new pastorate. I shall become the Senior Minister of the Moorings Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida. We are planning special services this year in the Orange Bowl since we are planning to beat Oklahoma early in our schedule and we plan to offer a prayer for those senators who are journeying southland at that time. But, even beyond that, we hope that there may be opportunities when we may be back with you and you may be able to venture down into the southland, perhaps, sometime in January before the Legislature opens. There is a likelihood in spite of this year's weather that we may have less snow this winter in Florida than you have here in Nebraska. But we do not venture forth simply for the climate of the weather but rather for the temperature of the soul and the climate of friendship. You have meant more to me, I believe, than many of you can possibly realize. Beyond this floor, we have stood by an open grave, we have stood at places of baptism, of marriage, of counseling, of venturing forth, of happy times and parties together as well. Thank you for letting me become a part of your family. You shall remain in my prayers. Even though I am no longer on the payroll of the State of Nebraska, you will