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to manage our budgeted funds so that all requests for travel be allowed as our policy will allow. I believe our travel expenses for the last two years will stand the closest scrutiny by an auditor and, if elected, I pledge to continue to be as fair as possible in granting travel requests as our policy and budget will allow. I ask for your continued support and your vote from you as Chair of this committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Are there further nominations? Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Madam President, first of all, I'd like to commend Senator Elmer for the way he has handled his job as chairman in the last two years. He has been fair in the administration of the travel budget, but I'd like to talk about something else. First of all, I would pledge to continue to maintain that fairness as Senator Elmer has established but there is an area I think we need to get into with this committee that has never been gotten into before, and that is the area of intergovernmental cooperation which is actually the name of the committee, and in actuality it is its function. The Intergovernmental Committee should be, Cooperation Committee should be like committees across the country. And what I pledge to do differently is to use that committee to bring into the Legislature our congressional delegation, people from the national organizations to hold seminars here in Lincoln so that we can be kept informed of what is going on across the country and what other states are doing in the area such as health care which is probably the most important issue that we're going to be facing. In the six years I've been here I don't recall ever any member of our congressional delegation coming in and talking to us about what is going on on the federal level and I would pledge to you that in addition to issuing travel vouchers which I think is an important but very small part of the function, is to make this a very living, breathing committee that is going to, quite frankly, save money by bringing the experts to us, by bringing our congressional delegation to us and bringing experts from across the country to us to explain the very difficult issues that we are going to have to deal with in this Legislature and there has been a glaring lack of that and I would pledge to do that and that different thing from what has been done in the past in the area of intergovernmental relations and cooperation. So with that, again, I commend Senator Elmer for his fairness in the travel area. He has been fair; he is a good friend of mine; I've served with him for six years in the