

January 13, 1993

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Madam President, your committee escorting the Honorable E. Benjamin Nelson, Governor of the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT MOUL: I now present the Governor of the State of Nebraska, E. Benjamin Nelson. (Applause.)

GOVERNOR NELSON: Thank you. Thank you very much. Madam President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, His Excellency Bishop Bruskewitz, my fellow Nebraskans, 1992 marked the 125th year of statehood for Nebraska, our quasiquicentennial. It's been a time of celebration, a time to remember and honor those who came before, a time to recognize and celebrate our diverse cultural heritage. A time to express pride and renew appreciation for our land and our people, the strength that is Nebraska. Just as those who occupy this corner of the world for centuries before us, we are obliged to continue on the path building for the framework of the future for our children and grandchildren. We will continue our quest of excellence in 1993, and we start from a solid foundation. Nebraska's economy remains sound, weathering well the storm of national recession. We boast one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. For the first time in nearly a decade more people are moving into Nebraska than are moving out. Through the cooperation and hard work of this Legislature we've restored stability to the property tax system and we've laid the groundwork for reasoned discussion of the next budget. As we approach the turn of the miller.nium, the decisions we face are framed in a new context. We're entering a challenging era in history, one in which change is rapid and constant, one which presents a myriad of problems and opportunities, one in which a new style of leadership will be required. With change comes discomfort. We long to preserve the familiar and we're right to hold onto that which endures. But some change is inevitable. The key is to know the difference between that which is transient and that which is timeless. Leadership in the 1990's and beyond involves the capacity to understand, to respond and even to shape change. To do so, a leader must act in partnership, not in isolation. The greatest form of leadership is empowering others to become leaders themselves, to invite others to stand shoulder-to-shoulder, not to demand that they fall in line behind. Leadership involves creating an environment that inspires people to make things happen, and things are happening in Nebraska. Our accomplishments have been achieved together as One Nebraska. Together we've made real progress in spite of