

February 4, 1993

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. Our chaplain today is Pastor Lauren Ekdahl of Trinity Methodist Church in Lincoln. Pastor Ekdahl.

PASTOR EKDAHL: Let's be in an attitude of prayer. The Holy One in ancient days you revealed your presence and power by grand intervention, sweeping back the seas that your chosen people might safely pass beyond their pursuers or deluging the earth with the flood. Your people perceived your power on an awesome scale. Your ways were visible. You appeared to Moses in a flaming bush and woke the prophets through dreams and messengers. We have grown accustomed to these stories of miracle and spectacle. Even Jesus walked on water, fed 5,000 from a small basket of food, brought the dead to life and finally burst the bonds of death itself. God, is it any wonder that you seem silent and hidden to us. Our life is unmarked by grand cosmic signs of your presence and we hunger for some direct revelation, a radiant light, a flickering glimpse of your face, the world hung by its heels for an instant. We hunger to know you, God. Why can't we see your influence in our lives? We remember the voices of prophets past, your marvelous acts in history and the miracle of Christ, but we have forgotten part of the story. You are not in the earthquake, wind and fire, not always extravagant and showy after all. You come instead on silent wings as a still, small voice, a whisper of truth, an intuition of someone's need, a quiet, courageous impulse, a silent nudge and in dream or vision. In our thirst for miracle we overlook the most daily of miracles and we neglect the opportunity to seek your hidden face in moments of encounter and prayer. Oh, God, give us thirst and an openness to meet you in your subtle and quiet ways as this gathering does the work of leading this state and its citizens into the future you give us as holy trust and gift. Amen.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Pastor Ekdahl. I now call to order the twentieth day of the Ninety-Third Legislature, First Session. We will proceed with roll call, please record your presence.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any