

April 8, 1994

JOAN BURNEY: A ten-second explanation to you as to why we're here. Sixty years ago the Congress of the United States mandated the American Mothers, Incorporated and the Nebraska Mothers as an affiliate with the task of picking the national mother. That's not to say that this is a perfect mother they pick but it's a mother who tries really, really hard and it's a mother who will represent all mothers who try really, really hard. For the last 50 years the Unicameral has taken time from their harrowing and frustrating schedule, I read the papers, their harrowing and frustrating schedule to honor the Nebraska mothers and it is a very generous thing for you to do when you're so very busy. I also hope it's a brief respite as you...a warm, fuzzy moment, I hope, in a place where warm, fuzzy moments may be at a premium, I'm not sure about that, but maybe. And so I would like to introduce to you people you really know, to introduce our mothers. This is quite a format we have here. Senator Ardyce Bohlke and Senator LaVon Crosby. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Joan. Sunny, on the floor of the Legislature, oftentimes a senator will ask a presiding officer to divide a question when we want to discuss each part separately. And so I was tempted this morning to really ask to divide the question on the Mother of the Year honor into eleven parts, one for each of your children. The many letters supporting Sunny for this honor state, unequivocally, and I quote, "Sunny's children are her biggest success story." These children all have successful careers, partly due to the commitment Mr. and Mrs. Welch made to education. And I tell you that among the eleven children I noted college degrees in the following fields, two in education, one law degree, one electrical engineer, two business degrees, one physics degree, one degree in psychology-sociology, and one in applied science. And after Sunny has helped pay for all of this education, her friends still call her Sunny. Eric Fromm, a psychologist and philosopher, stated, the mother-child relationship is paradoxical and, in a sense, tragic. It requires the most intense love on the mother's side, yet this very love must help the child grow away from the mother and to become fully independent. Another way of saying that, there are two gifts that a mother may give a child, roots and wings, and we know that wings are often the most difficult. And, Sunny, congratulations to you on making your children soar. Congratulations. (Applause.)

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