

April 15, 1994

SENATOR BYARS: This is the second time I rise reluctantly this afternoon. Patrick, I like it here though. Do you know anything about fund raising? Maybe we could do a swap. Thanks everyone. I was going to ask DBS if he wouldn't accept this plaque on my behalf. I've needled him unendlessly this year about his standing before the microphone and regaling us with any number of stories, but I respect that, David, and I want to tell you that. All I can say is thank you. It's been an absolutely wonderful honor to serve in this body and I want to thank not only all the members here, but those that have been here and that have gone, but all these people under the balcony, the wonderful aides, the staff that serve all of us. I have just had an absolutely wonderful experience that I will never forget and I certainly will be back to visit you often and once again I say thank you, I appreciate it very much, it was a great dance. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBOD: This morning I drove down with Brad Ashford from Omaha and it's always an experience. Two years ago Jerry Chizek told me it was my responsibility to take care of him and we usually drive down about once a week and keep him focused on the issues we're going to be talking about that week. I got in the car and usually whenever he picks me up he's always talking on his mobile phone, especially during the campaign and I waited until he was done talking, he was yelling at the phone, and he...after he got through he was still steaming and I said, well, I said, Brad, I'm going to be the person that they've chosen to introduce you and give you a plaque for your retirement from the Legislature. What do you want me to talk about? He said, I want you to talk about Ron Staskiewicz. (Laughter.) He said, that guy, I can't believe what he is saying about my TV and radio ads. He said, I want you to tell them that I didn't raise taxes much or tell them that when I did raise taxes it was for a darn good reason like auditoriums or something. And then we proceeded to talk more, but I said you know, you can't talk about Ron Staskiewicz, he's never served in the Legislature, we need to talk about you. So he said, that's right, that's right. We need to talk about things I did while I was in the Legislature, so we talked about Joslyn Castle for a while and...but he didn't really view that as his high point so we changed. He said, why don't you talk about welfare reform. That's a big issue right now, talk about welfare reform and we