

February 22, 1996

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: (Recorder not activated immediately.) ...W. Norris Legislative Chamber. As we begin today, the thirty-first day, of the Ninety-Fourth Legislature, Second Session. Very pleased to have with us this morning our chaplain coordinator, Harland Johnson.

HARLAND JOHNSON: A minister acquaintance of mine, who is pastor of the First Christian Church in Wichita, a fellow by the name of Joe Wright (phonetic), gave this prayer before the Kansas Legislature, and it was met with some controversy. But I share with you, I got a copy of it, I share it with you this morning. Father, we come before you to ask your forgiveness. We seek your direction and your guidance. We know your word says, woe to those who call evil good. But that's what we've done. We've lost our spiritual equilibrium. We have inverted our values. We have ridiculed the absolute truth of your word in the name of moral pluralism. We have worshiped other gods and called it multiculturalism. We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle. We've exploited the poor and called it a lottery. We've neglected the needy and called it self-preservation. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. In the name of choice, we have killed our unborn. In the name of right to life, we have killed abortionists. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it political savvy. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it taxes. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, oh, God, and know our hearts today. Try us, show us any wickedness within us. Cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of the state of Nebraska, and that they have been ordained by you to govern this great state. Grant them your wisdom to rule. May their decisions direct us to the center of your will. And as we continue our prayer and as we come in out of the fog give us clear minds to accomplish our goals as we begin the last half of this Ninety-Fourth Legislature. For we pray in Jesus name, Amen.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Harland. Members, please report to the Chamber and record your presence.