

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

CEREMONIAL PROCEEDINGS ON THE
TAKING OF THE OATH OF OFFICE BY

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM G. CAMBRIDGE

AS UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA.

OFFICIAL
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

July 22, 1988
2:00 p.m.

PEGGY CASPER, C.S.R.
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
U. S. DISTRICT COURT
FEDERAL BUILDING
P. O. BOX 1278, OMAHA, NE 68101

1 July 22, 1988

2 2:00 p. m.

3 MARSHALL O'HARA: Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

4 The United States District Court for the District of Nebraska
5 is now convened in ceremonial session. God save the United
6 States and this Honorable Court.

7 JUDGE LYLE STROM: This ceremonial session of
8 the United States District Court has been convened for the
9 purpose of administering the oath of office to our new
10 United States District Judge, William G. Cambridge.

11 On behalf of the United States Court of Appeals
12 for the Eighth Circuit and the United States District Court
13 for the District of Nebraska and on behalf of Bill and his
14 wife, Jean, and their family, we welcome all of you to this
15 installation ceremony.

16 At this time the Court will recognize Mr. Stephen
17 J. Markman, Assistant Attorney General, United States
18 Department of Justice who will present and read into the
19 record the President's Commission issued to Judge Cambridge.
20 Mr. Markman.

21 MR. STEPHEN J. MARKMAN: May it please the
22 Court: It is an honor to be here in Omaha on the occasion
23 of Bill Cambridge's investiture as United States District
24 Judge for Nebraska. There is no more important legacy left
25 by any President than the individuals who continuously renew

1 the Judicial Branch of our national government, and we are
2 very proud of that part of our legacy achieved here today.

3 As Bill is acutely aware, this has been a very long
4 process, in part because of parallel efforts to fill another
5 federal judicial vacancy, that of Justice Powell on the
6 Supreme Court. What makes today's achievement particularly
7 satisfying is that unlike that other vacancy, it only took
8 us a single nomination to fill this seat. That is not always
9 an easy thing to do.

10 Bill Cambridge's record will be set forth today,
11 his service to his country in the army, 24 years as a
12 respected attorney engaged in the general practice of law,
13 six years of service on the Nebraska District Court, active
14 in the business community in the Chamber of Commerce, an
15 elder in his church, a trustee for an institution of higher
16 education, and a leader in community and charitable activities.

17 Bill Cambridge brings an unusual breadth of
18 background to his new responsibilities, and it is a distinguished
19 record. During the course of his appointment process,
20 Bill Cambridge has gone through one of the most exhaustive
21 processes ever put in place in government. There have been
22 background investigations by the Department of Justice and
23 the White House. There has been thorough review by a selec-
24 tion panel established by Senator Karnes as well as an
25 analysis by Senator Exon. There has been a two-month

1 investigation by the FBI, and there have been literally
2 scores of interviews by the American Bar Association as
3 well as a close review by the Senate Committee on the
4 Judiciary. I can recall few candidates who have emerged
5 from this grueling and protracted process with the record
6 of Bill Cambridge, a record of respect from bench and bar,
7 a record of achievement in his career path, a record of
8 unblemished honesty and integrity. All of this, of course,
9 culminated recently in a unanimous vote of approval by the
10 full United States Senate, something that we in the
11 administration do not hold against Bill in any way. (Laughter.)

12 Bill Cambridge is still one of the first federal
13 judges to be confirmed in the third century of our
14 Constitution. We are comfortable that that inspired
15 document will be in the very best of hands as Bill Cambridge
16 ascends to the federal bench. There is ultimately no higher
17 accolade that we can give Bill Cambridge than that we
18 believe he fully satisfies the high standard set for many
19 years by this distinguished Court in Nebraska.

20 I would now like to read the commission: (As you
21 know, this makes it official. This is what Marbury versus
22 Madison was all about,) "Ronald Reagan, President of the
23 United States of America. To all who shall see these
24 Presents, Greetings: Know Ye; That reposing special
25 trust and confidence in the Wisdom, Uprightness, and Learning

1 of William G. Cambridge, of Nebraska, I have nominated,
 2 and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, do
 3 appoint him United States District Judge for the District
 4 of Nebraska, and do authorize and empower him to execute
 5 and fulfil the duties of that Office according to the
 6 Constitution and Laws of the said United States, and to
 7 Have and to Hold the said Office, with all the powers, privi-
 8 leges and emoluments to the same of right appertaining, unto
 9 Him, the said William G. Cambridge during his good behavior."

10 Signed by the Attorney General of the United States
 11 and the President of the United States. I would like to
 12 present this to Judge Cambridge. (Commission presented.)

13 JUDGE STROM: All right, Judge Cambridge, if
 14 you are prepared now to take the oath of office, would you
 15 please stand and raise your right hand and repeat after me:

16 "I, William G. Cambridge,

17 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: I, William G. Cambridge,

18 JUDGE STROM: do solemnly swear

19 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: do solmenly swear

20 JUDGE STROM: that I will administer justice

21 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: that I will administer justice

22 JUDGE STROM: without respect to persons

23 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: without respect to persons

24 JUDGE STROM: and do equal right to the poor and
 25 to the rich

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JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: and do equal right to the poor
and to the rich

JUDGE STROM: and that I will faithfully and
impartially discharge

JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: and that I will faithfully and
impartially discharge

JUDGE STROM: and perform all of the duties

JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: and perform all of the duties

JUDGE STROM: incumbent upon me as United States
District Judge,

JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: incumbent upon me as United
States District Judge,

JUDGE STROM: according to the best of my
abilities and understanding,

JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: according to the best of my
abilities and understanding,

JUDGE STROM: agreeable to the Constitution and
laws of the United States;

JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: agreeable to the Constitution
and laws of the United States;

JUDGE STROM: and that I will support and defend

JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: and that I will support and defend

JUDGE STROM: the Constitution of the United States

JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: the Constitution of the United States

JUDGE STROM: against all enemies, foreign and

1 domestic;

2 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: against all enemies, foreign
3 and domestic;

4 JUDGE STROM: that I will bear true faith

5 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: that I will bear true faith

6 JUDGE STROM: and allegiance to the same;

7 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: and allegiance to the same;

8 JUDGE STROM: that I take this obligation freely

9 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: that I take this obligation
10 freely

11 JUDGE STROM: without any mental reservation or
12 purpose of evasion;

13 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: without any mental reservation
14 or purpose of evasion;

15 JUDGE STROM: and that I will well and
16 faithfully discharge

17 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: and that I will well and
18 faithfully discharge

19 JUDGE STROM: the duties of the office upon which
20 I am about to enter.

21 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: the duties of the office upon
22 which I am about to enter.

23 JUDGE STROM: So help me God.

24 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: So help me God.

25 JUDGE STROM: All right, at this time then I will

1 invite Bill's wife, Jean, and his daughter, Elisa Poulson,
2 and his daughter, Karen Portwood, to assist Judge Cambridge
3 with his robe.

4 (Judge William G. Cambridge was assisted by
5 his wife and daughters in donning his robe.)

6 JUDGE STROM: That is the problem with those
7 modern devices. (Laughter) Judge Cambridge, I invite you
8 to join us here on the bench.

9 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you.

10 (Judge Cambridge ascended the Bench.)

11 JUDGE STROM: Well, Judge Cambridge, congratulations!
12 On behalf of this Court, I want to welcome you to our Bench.
13 Having spent nearly nine months, the past nearly nine months,
14 juggling the cases which are pending on the two Omaha dockets,
15 you must realize how personally pleased I am to have you
16 (laughter) join me on the bench here in Omaha.

17 I have known Bill Cambridge, I think now for at
18 least the past fifteen years, and I believe I can assure all
19 of the members of the bar of this state that they will find
20 in Judge Cambridge those characteristics of fairness and
21 temperament which a good judge should possess. When we were
22 back in chambers just a few moments ago, somebody said to me,
23 "The lawyers are going to become confused, you and Judge
24 Cambridge look so much alike," and I responded in my usual
25 humble manner that they should have no trouble, I'm the

1 better looking! (Laughter) Whereupon I was told that Judge
2 Cambridge had made the same response. (Laughter)

3 You are the sixteenth United States District Judge
4 in Nebraska. Having served as a state District Court judge
5 in Hastings these past six or seven years, you are the
6 second person appointed to this bench who had prior judicial
7 experience. The first was Judge Woodrough. With that
8 experience, you probably have a better idea of what to
9 anticipate than those of us who came directly from the
10 practicing bar.

11 I do look forward to working with you, and I want
12 you to know that all of us join in pledging to you our
13 help and support, and, yes, even our counsel if you should
14 be so foolish as to ask for it! (Laughter)

15 However, Bill, I am seriously very pleased to
16 welcome you to this bench, and I do seriously look forward
17 to working with you in the years ahead in addressing the
18 problems that are presented to the Federal Court here in Omaha.

19 Now, at this time I would like to present the
20 Honorable Donald P. Lay, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals
21 for the Eighth Circuit, for such remarks as he would care
22 to make. Judge Lay.

23 JUDGE DONALD P. LAY: Thank you, Chief Judge Strom.
24 Judge Cambridge, Mrs. Cambridge, and members of your family,
25 distinguished jurists, and fellow Nebraskans: I have the

1 privilege as Chief Judge of this Circuit of participating
2 in most of the installations of the District Judges and Circuit
3 Judges within the seven states of the Eighth Circuit.

4 Perhaps no more heart warming though and nostalgic are the
5 judgeships that are created than the newly appointed judges
6 in Nebraska because this gives me a chance to be with old
7 friends.

8 I mentioned to Senator Hruska coming in, and I
9 didn't even note this, but I called the office and someone
10 said, "Congratulations!" And I said, "Why?" And they said,
11 "Well, 22 years ago today you were appointed to the Eighth
12 Circuit Court of Appeals." That's pretty hard for me to
13 think back to that time and believe that that amount of time
14 has passed. I mentioned to Senator Hruska that I remember
15 shortly after the President had made the announcement that
16 I received a call from his office, and I will always remember
17 the friendly admonition, "Don, you better get back here as
18 quick as you can. You never know what will happen."

19 But Nebraska has been home to me, and I want to
20 mention that, Judge Cambridge, Judge Strom has indicated that
21 you are the 16th District Judge. We started with Judge
22 Dundy who was first appointed to be a Territorial Judge
23 here, and then 15 followed in his footsteps, and I was
24 thinking about that as Judge Strom mentioned the 16, and I
25 knew and had the privilege of knowing 11 of those judges

1 starting with Judge Woodrough in 1933 when he was appointed
2 to the District Court and in 1937 to the United States
3 Court of Appeals. But I had the privilege of trying cases
4 before four of those judges, the great and scholarly
5 Judge John Delehant; Judge Donohoe in the old courtroom
6 across in the old post office building; Judge Van Pelt,
7 our great, beloved friend; and of course my very close,
8 dear friend, Dick Robinson. I more or less cut my teeth
9 trying cases before them, and I think if anything impressed
10 me more, it is that there are great characteristics in
11 great judges, and these four judges that I practiced before
12 have been leaders of the bar, leaders in the nation, and
13 the federal judiciary.

14 And I mention this, Judge Cambridge, because I am
15 sure that you know that you are stepping into big shoes
16 because these people that have preceded you have been just
17 tremendous leaders in the federal judicial system, and it has
18 been a great privilege of mine to work with them now and to
19 have worked with them over the years. We have a great
20 bench here, a great tradition, and as has been mentioned by
21 the administration, these appointments do not come lightly.
22 They are very rare, very privileged. It is great and
23 privileged thing to serve in the federal judicial system.

24 I talked to Washington this morning because I
25 wanted to get a couple of figures and I say this not to cast

1 a great onerous concern over Judge Cambridge, but to remind
2 you all as to leadership and tradition that these Nebraska
3 judges have carried on. There are 94 District Courts through-
4 out the nation. Nebraska ranks second in the nation in
5 having the highest number of trials per judge in the last
6 fiscal year, first in our Circuit. In total filings per
7 judge, Nebraska was fifth in the nation and second in our
8 Circuit. In civil filings, they were third in the nation
9 and first in our Circuit. In weighted case load -- now
10 that means based upon the complexity and involvement of
11 the particular legal proceeding based upon the statistical
12 analysis that is made by the Administrative Office in
13 Washington -- Nebraska ranks 15th in the nation out of
14 94 in having the greatest number of weighted filings in
15 the nation, second in the Circuit, and they have the 10th
16 highest number of terminations per judge in the nation, first
17 in the Circuit.

18 Those are remarkable numbers and they aren't
19 accomplished by people who are not outstanding scholars and
20 workers and those that have not shown dedicated industry.

21 So, Bill, I mention these not to give you great
22 concern, but to show that you are stepping in with a group
23 of judges who are perhaps among the most hard working judges,
24 the most industrious judges, in the entire country. We welcome
25 you to the Eighth Circuit. We welcome you to the District

1 of Nebraska. Thank you.

2 JUDGE STROM: Thank you, Judge Lay. I would now
3 like to introduce the Honorable C. Arlen Beam, Judge of the
4 United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, who,
5 of course, vacated the position which Judge Cambridge has
6 filled today. Judge Beam.

7 JUDGE C. ARLEN BEAM: Judge Strom. Judge Cambridge,
8 I, too, wish to welcome you to the federal judicial system. I
9 should say I would like to welcome you and Jean to the
10 system. I think it is a partnership as you probably have
11 worked it as a state trial judge.

12 From Judge Lay's figures, I think that you can see
13 that you are embarking on an exciting new phase of your life
14 in the law. I read in the press during the selection process
15 a statement by Lieutenant Governor Whelan who is your master
16 of ceremonies here today that you were a super judge but
17 perhaps the worst golf player that he knew. (Laughter.)
18 I would like to tell you I am pretty good, I think, at
19 evaluating my own golf capabilities, and I have played with
20 Judge Strom and I think you will fit right in. (Laughter.)

21 Just as when you were a state judge, I am sure
22 that you are going to find on the federal bench that you
23 will deal with some issues that seem to be so complex that
24 that there doesn't appear to be any real answer to them. I
25 think you will probably feel sometimes that you are operating

1 in a vacuum because we do not always get the feedback from
2 the work that we do.

3 In that regard, I would like to pass on a comment
4 made by Justice Blackmun to Betty and I last week. We were
5 at the Judicial Conference and he told me that his spouse
6 had become not only his best but most persistent critic.
7 And she jumped right in and she said, "Yes, I keep him
8 from getting too "judgey." I looked around at Betty and
9 she was nodding in the affirmative. (Laughter.)

10 I don't mean to upstage Judge Robinson but I
11 have heard him say in the past that in our system "a District
12 Judge searches for the truth and the Appeals Court searches
13 for error." (Laughter.) And in this search, I have found
14 that much to my chagrin once in a while the Circuit Court
15 disagreed with a position I had taken as a District Judge,
16 so I adopted a philosophy that Judge Caporale passed along
17 to me from his days as a state district court judge dealing
18 with Judge Hastings' court down in Lincoln, the Supreme Court.
19 I am paraphrasing it a little for the federal system, he
20 told me that "The appeals court is not last because it's right.
21 It's right only because it's last." (Laughter.)

22 So with that, Betty and I wish you and Jean the
23 very best in your return to Omaha in your new job. Welcome
24 aboard.

25 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you very much, Judge Beam.

1 JUDGE STROM: And then the gentleman who probably
2 is primarily responsible for those outstanding statistics
3 we have in Nebraska, our Judge from Lincoln who sits on
4 the District Court bench, Judge Warren K. Urbom. Judge Urbom.

5 JUDGE WARREN K. URBOM: Thank you, Judge Strom.
6 Judge Cambridge and Jean, the rest of your family and friends.
7 William Van Tilberg Clark wrote a story called "The Oxbow
8 Incident," and it is from some of the words of that story
9 that I take what I have to say. It is a paraphrasing of his
10 words. Law is more than the words that put it on a page.
11 Law is more than any decisions that may come from it. Law
12 is more than any person or lawyer or judge. True law, the
13 code of justice, the essence of our sensations about right
14 and wrong is the conscience of society. It has taken
15 thousands of years to develop, and is the distinguishing
16 quality that has evolved with humankind. None of our temples,
17 our weapons, our tools, our arts, our sciences, or anything
18 else that has come with us is as pervading as our sense
19 of the need for justice.

20 That means, I think, that you and I and the other
21 members of the judiciary have a high calling. It is a
22 calling to attach ourselves to that deepest of human impulses.
23 We will be and we should be judged by the degree to which we
24 are driven by the conscience of society, the sense of the
25 need for justice.

1 Now, I am sure that you already know that and
2 feel it but I wanted to give you assurance that you are
3 joining a bench occupied by others who feel it also.

4 I do indeed welcome you to this Court.

5 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you, Judge Urbom.

6 JUDGE STROM: And then I think a man that all of
7 us have grown to respect and to love, the Senior Judge
8 from here in Omaha, the Honorable Richard E. Robinson,
9 United States District Judge. Judge Robinson.

10 JUDGE RICHARD E. ROBINSON: Judge Strom,
11 members of the Court, Judge Cambridge, and your fine family
12 here today: I am going to be very brief, but I didn't want
13 the record to get by without my again welcoming you to the
14 Court. The representative from the government today who
15 presented your commission, 32 years ago when I received my
16 commission, I am glad that they didn't do as much checking
17 or I probably wouldn't be here. (Laughter.)

18 It is a pleasure to welcome you, and as Judge
19 Strom has indicated, unlike most of us who came to the bench
20 without any previous judicial experience, you come now with
21 a background of experience and training that adequately
22 prepares you for your continuation of the trial work. I
23 can only say this: When I was to have the oath administered,
24 Judge Harvey Johnsen -- I believe he was even then the
25 Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals -- said

1 on that occasion, "Dick, I am sure that you will not long
2 be on the bench until you find out that you are not just
3 another judge but part of a great integrated group,
4 friendly and helpful." I can tell you now, Judge Cambridge,
5 that I have certainly found that to be true, and I am sure
6 that you will not be long on the bench until you appreciate
7 that very thing. As far as I am personally concerned,
8 if there is anything I could do to make the way a little
9 easier, I would be glad to do so; however, I have slowed
10 down and while I am here to help, sometimes I think maybe
11 it is time to turn in my suit, but again, we are so glad
12 to have you, and my wife, I am sure, would want to be here
13 today to pay her respects but unfortunately she could not,
14 so again, we wish you very well.

15 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you, Judge Robinson.

16 JUDGE STROM: There are some members of the
17 federal and state judiciary here who are not on the program,
18 and I would just like to introduce them at this time, and as
19 I introduce them, I would request that they please stand.

20 From the federal judiciary, the Honorable Richard
21 C. Peck, United States Magistrate; the Honorable David
22 L. Piester from Lincoln, Nebraska, United States Magistrate;
23 the Honorable Richard C. Kopf from Omaha, United States
24 Magistrate. Then we have our two bankruptcy judges here,
25 Chief Judge Timothy J. Mahoney from Omaha, and Judge John C.

1 Minahan, Jr., from Lincoln, Nebraska. From the Supreme
2 Court, we have the Honorable Leslie Boslaugh, Associate
3 Justice of the Supreme Court of Nebraska and D. Nick Caporale,
4 Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Nebraska.

5 From the District Court bench --

6 JUDGE URBOM: State bench,

7 JUDGE STROM: He is always instructing me.

8 JUDGE BEAM.: We have noticed that you need it.

9 JUDGE URBOM: We will not give up on you.

10 JUDGE STROM: I thought that was what the Court
11 of Appeals was for. (Laughter.)

12 From the Douglas County District Court, the
13 Honorable Robert Burkhard, Judge Burkhard, and the Honorable
14 Jerry Gitnick, Jerry.

15 In addition, there is present today Mr. Mylon Bish,
16 a former ambassador to Barbados.

17 At this time I am going to turn the program over
18 to Gerald T. Whelan of Hastings, Nebraska. As indicated,
19 he is the former Lieutenant Governor of the State of
20 Nebraska, and he will serve as the master of ceremonies.
21 Mr. Whelan.

22 MR. WHELAN: Thank you, Chief Judge Strom,
23 members of the court, may it please the Court: I would like
24 to say that I am inordinately proud to be here, but I have
25 heard that phrase "inordinately proud" all week from Atlanta --

1 so I thought I would say I was "ordinately proud," but
2 I looked that up, Judge Lay, and that doesn't fit either
3 so I will just strip it of all the adjectives and tell you
4 that I am proud to be master of ceremonies, and thank you,
5 Judge Cambridge.

6 During the selection process, there was some
7 comment that Lawyer Bill Cambridge in practice had not had
8 sufficient contact with the federal court, and that was
9 a rap. As Judge Lay said, this is only the second federal
10 district judge that has come from the state courts, and it
11 is the first one, I believe, that has come from the
12 Nebraska state court, and so I can assure the members of
13 the bench and the members of the bar that are here that the
14 six or seven years of testing that Judge Cambridge has had
15 in the District Court of the Tenth District will stand up
16 quite well. There are many lawyers here from the Tenth
17 District and from central Nebraska, and they have tested
18 Bill Cambridge and they tested him without holding anything
19 back. We haven't found him wanting. We found a very
20 strong intelligence, and a man of great diligence and a
21 man dedicated to the proposition of justice.

22 Bill Cambridge really believes in due process.
23 He really believes in the Constitution. He believes in
24 every single article of the Constitution and every single
25 amendment to the Constitution, and he believes in the pledge

1 of allegiance, not just "liberty and justice for all," but
2 "This is one nation indivisible --." That is what
3 impresses me about Judge Cambridge, that we are an indivisible
4 nation with liberty and justice for all, and I have found
5 that Judge Cambridge puts the emphasis on the indivisibility
6 of this nation.

7 I know that your education isn't complete, Judge
8 Cambridge, and that Judge Strom will lead you through the
9 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and how they differ from
10 the state rules, and I know that Judge Strom will lead you
11 through the maze of federal administrative problems connected
12 with the Court. I would advise you, Judge Strom, don't
13 start trying to teach him to play golf. (Laughter.) It
14 won't help Bill and it could positively ruin your modest game.
15 (Laughter.)

16 I would like now to more fully introduce the
17 Cambridge Family: Jean Cambridge, would you stand up
18 together with daughters Elisa Poulson and James Poulson,
19 would you stand? He didn't make it? Okay, Elisa. And
20 Karen Portwood and Rich, Rich Portwood has to stand up, too.
21 Rich isn't -- I like Rich, but he is not the brightest guy
22 in the world. He lockers next to me and he takes his locker
23 off, puts it inside the locker with his wristwatch and his
24 wallet and then slams the door and goes and plays golf.
25 (Laughter.) Then he wonders why he loses his watch all the

1 time. (Laughter.)

2 At this time we would like to call upon some
3 people to read greetings and congratulations from various
4 people. We will start off with the chairman of our
5 committee, Duane Acklie, who will read a letter from the
6 Honorable Kay Orr, Governor of the State of Nebraska.

7 MR. ACKLIE: Mr. Chairman, members of the Court:
8 Governor Orr asked me to convey to Judge Cambridge and to
9 his family the fact that she is outside the State today,
10 unable to be here, on a trip that was planned prior to
11 the date that this was set. So she has asked me to read
12 this letter: It is addressed to The Honorable William
13 G. Cambridge, United States District Judge for the District
14 of Nebraska. "Dear Judge Cambridge: My sincere congratulations
15 are extended to you in your appointment and installation as
16 Judge of the United States District Court.

17 "The people of this state can be exceedingly proud
18 of the pre-eminence of those Nebraskans who have been chosen
19 to administer the laws of our land. Your appointment assures
20 the continuation of a diligent and perceptive judiciary,
21 committed to protecting the individual liberties guaranteed
22 to the American people.

23 "I am confident that you will serve with a deep
24 sense of integrity and sensitivity to justice. May God
25 grant you wisdom in the fulfillment of your awesome

1 responsibilities. Sincerely, Kay A. Orr, Governor of the
2 State of Nebraska."

3 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you, Duane.

4 MR. WHELAN: And now to present a letter from the
5 Honorable Virginia Smith, Member of Congress from the Third
6 District, appropriately John Gale, attorney at law from
7 North Platte in the Third District. John.

8 MR. JOHN GALE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members
9 of the Court, on behalf of Congresswoman Smith, I have a
10 letter to The Honorable William G. Cambridge from
11 Congresswoman Virginia Smith of the Third District: "Dear
12 Bill: Congratulations upon your installation as United States
13 District Judge for the Nebraska District -- and particularly
14 for the Third Congressional District!

15 "One of my keenest disappointments is not being with
16 you in the flesh on this once-in-a-lifetime occasion. But I
17 am very much with you in spirit.

18 "As you know, I worked long and hard to make sure
19 this appointment was made from the more than 700 judges and
20 lawyers working and practicing in the Third Congressional
21 District.

22 "I commend you for surviving the intense competition
23 for this job. While painful for your rivals, that competition
24 helped insure the appointment of Bill Cambridge as an
25 outstandingly qualified candidate.

1 "On this joyous occasion, I know that we in the
2 Third District can claim your special allegiance only to the
3 extent that it is consistent with the proper execution of
4 your duties as a federal judge and with the application of
5 legal principles to the many problems and issues facing all
6 the people of Nebraska -- not just those in my congressional
7 district.

8 "Nevertheless, I want to reiterate in this letter
9 some of the things I told the Senate Judiciary Committee at
10 your confirmation hearing on May 16, 1988.

11 "I said at the outset that introducing you to the
12 Committee was a wonderful opportunity -- an opportunity to
13 tell about your outstanding personal and professional attributes
14 and to boast about the victory that your appointment represents
15 to me personally and to the lawyers and judges of the Third
16 Congressional District.

17 "I pointed out that except for the lamentably brief
18 one-year service of Judge Richard Dier of Kearney, ending with
19 his death in 1972, Judge Cambridge would be the first federal
20 judge selected from resident members of the bar from my
21 congressional district in more than 30 years.

22 "I quote from my remarks to the Senate Committee:
23 My huge district comprises more than three-fourths of the
24 western part of Nebraska and is home for about 500,000 persons
25 or about one-third of the state's population. It is home also

1 for more than 700 lawyers and judges.

2 "With Judge Dier's brief exception, out of the last
3 ten federal judges appointed in Nebraska, only Judge James
4 Donohoe of O'Neill was from my district. He served from
5 1933 to 1956 -- about 23 years ago.

6 "We have fought successfully to continue to hold
7 some regular sessions of the Federal District Court of Nebraska
8 in the City of North Platte in my district -- which is as it
9 should be.

10 "We selected William Cambridge from a stellar field
11 in a winnowing process that has been extremely long, difficult,
12 and painful for many of those who had the courage and desire
13 to seek this appointment.

14 "Over the years, Bill Cambridge, you and I have
15 become friends. So I will be following this new phase of your
16 career with more than casual interest.

17 "My information is that you are sorely needed by
18 the Federal District Court of Nebraska. It is short-handed,
19 and the caseload is very heavy.

20 "With best wishes upon this new beginning, I am
21 Sincerely, Virginia Smith, Member of Congress."

22 Thank you.

23 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you.

24 MR. WHELAN: Thank you, Mr. Gale. Catherine
25 Dahlquist of Senator Exon's office here in the building

1 handed me a letter which she received from Senator J. James
2 Exon, who also could not be here. I don't know what the
3 connections were but he couldn't come to Omaha.

4 "United States Senate, Washington, D. C. The
5 Honorable William G. Cambridge. Dear Judge Cambridge:

6 "Congratulations on this special day. Your
7 promotion to the federal bench is indeed well deserved. It
8 is a fitting recognition of a long distinguished legal and
9 judicial career. I was delighted to help clear the path for
10 your speedy confirmation. Your top drawer credentials and
11 excellent management skills won instant recognition and
12 respect in the United States Senate.

13 "A full docket awaits you. I am confident that
14 you will serve the people of our great state well. With best
15 wishes. Cordially, Jim Exon."

16 And for further remarks we have a United States
17 Senator in our presence. He is also a member of the bar and prac-
18 ticed in Nebraska's Second District, since we are so con-
19 cerned with districts. It gives me great pleasure to present
20 a member of the Nebraska bar and a member of the United
21 States Senate, the Honorable David Karnes.

22 SENATOR DAVID KARNES: Chief Judge Lay, Judge
23 Beam, Judge Strom, Judge Urbom and Judge Cambridge -- that
24 sounds very good -- Lieutenant Governor Whelan, fellow members
25 of the bar, ladies and gentlemen:

1 There are many duties which my colleague Senator
2 Exon and I are called upon to perform as United States
3 Senators but none are more important than the constitutional
4 role of advice and consent in naming persons to the
5 federal bench. Today it is a distinct honor for me to be
6 here for this installation ceremony for Judge William
7 Cambridge. His nomination by the President and confirmation
8 by the Senate is most timely considering the case backlog
9 facing his court, around 570 cases as of the end of April.
10 The citizens of Nebraska are fortunate to have a man like
11 Bill Cambridge willing and able to accept this very great
12 challenge. Although there have been recent troubling
13 reports concerning the quality of Bill's golf game, I find
14 such reports encouraging because if they indeed are true,
15 Judge Cambridge, you should find much greater satisfaction
16 working on the case backlog than on the apparent errant
17 backswing that comes with your golf game. (Laughter.)

18 Bill, in my opinion you are the right man at the
19 right time to take on the challenge of the docket of this
20 Court and to serve as Nebraska's newest United States Federal
21 Judge. I am pleased that the President concurred in my
22 assessment, and that you were able with the help of my
23 colleague, Jim Exon, to be confirmed by the Senate so promptly.

24 As a practicing attorney in Hastings for more than
25 24 years and a District Judge for the State of Nebraska for

1 six and a half years, you have proven yourself to be not only
2 a solid lawyer, a fair and impartial jurist and an efficient
3 administrator of judicial dockets. We know you will get
4 the job done, the challenging job that has been described
5 today.

6 Liz and I wish you and Jean the very best. We
7 welcome you to Omaha, and I welcome you particularly as a
8 member of the federal bench. Thank you very much.

9 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you, Senator.

10 MR. WHELAN: Thank you, Senator Karnes. The last
11 federal official that we would like to introduce for remarks
12 is the Honorable Ron Lahners, United States District Attorney
13 for the District of Nebraska. Do you want to stay there or
14 come here, Ron?

15 MR. LAHNERS: I will come there.

16 MR. WHELAN: Thank you.

17 MR. LAHNERS: May it please the Court, Judge
18 Strom, Judge Lay, honored guests, friends of Judge Cambridge:
19 It is a particular pleasure for me to welcome Judge Cambridge
20 to the federal family. I have known Judge Cambridge since
21 we were in law school together and that goes back to somewhere
22 before 1955 that we will all admit to.

23 In addition to just being in law school, we were
24 in ROTC together in the early days, and we somehow ended up
25 together in August of 1955 in Fort Gordon, Georgia. We were

1 in an officer's training course there for 16 weeks at that
2 time. We had the dubious pleasure of becoming intimately
3 familiar with Georgia's red dirt, its humidity and all sorts of
4 little creepy crawly creatures. I think at that time that
5 that was probably the biggest cockroaches that I had ever
6 seen in my life.

7 Now the Judge was a little bit smarter than I was
8 and he moved out of those bachelor officer's quarters
9 and over into off-post housing when Jean came down to
10 Georgia, and at that time why Judge Cambridge asked me and
11 I helped them move, as I recall. At that time they
12 didn't have quite as much, probably, to move as they had
13 this last week. (Laughter.)

14 Now I don't know, my memory isn't good enough to
15 know what I broke or what I didn't. All I can tell you is
16 he has never asked me to help him move since. (Laughter.)

17 After Fort Gordon, we kind of went our separate
18 ways in life. I do know that while he was in the military
19 he was offered a commission in the Judge Advocate General's
20 Corps, but along with that went the caveat that he had to
21 extend for a couple of years, and upon hearing that, he said
22 something to the effect that "no, thanks. My mama didn't
23 raise a fool." (Laughter.)

24 Now I didn't see Judge Cambridge probably for
25 several years after our time in service and I didn't until

1 we had a contract matter together where he represented one
2 of the parties and I had occasion to represent the other,
3 and you know I remember two things about that case. The
4 first thing was that he taught a few things of importance
5 about the tax ramifications of contracts. Lawyers always
6 learn from other lawyers. The second thing that he did was
7 that he did it in such a way that he facilitated a very fair
8 contract between the parties and he didn't have to do that.
9 And then when I heard that Bill's name was mentioned for
10 this judgeship, I was particularly pleased when I thought
11 back about that incident to think that a man who had practiced
12 law as an attorney and as a judge in such a fair way was
13 the type of person who was going to be called upon to act
14 as a federal court judge and to dispense justice fairly
15 and evenly to all of the people who would have occasion to
16 come in front of him in this court. I know that he will do
17 that. I know it not only from my own experience and career
18 in the practice of law and working with him in that regard
19 but I also know that from the people who I have talked to
20 in the Hastings area where he has spent most of his life in
21 practice and where he has been a judge and where he holds
22 a very high reputation for fairness and integrity and being
23 the type of person that you would want for a federal judge.

24 Judge Cambridge has stated to the press that the
25 litigants in his court will receive a fair, impartial and

1 expeditious resolution of their cases, and I have no question
2 that the cases will receive a fair and impartial hearing.
3 Having inherited a backlog of 600 cases, however, Judge,
4 I might ask if you want to reconsider the word "expeditious"
5 and change it to "as expeditiously resolved as is possible
6 under the circumstances." (Laughter.)

7 Seriously, I know the Judge to be an excellent
8 lawyer, a hard-working judge, and most of all, a very good
9 man. He will do a great job as a federal judge. He will
10 render most excellent service to the District of Nebraska,
11 and it is a great personal pleasure for me to be here to
12 welcome him to the federal court.

13 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you, Ron.

14 MR. WHELAN: Thank you, Mr. Lahners. All
15 special privilege for all of us, I think, is to hear from
16 Judge Cambridge's late but great colleague from the Tenth
17 District. I would like now to introduce his great friend
18 and great colleague from Red Cloud, Nebraska, the Honorable
19 Bernard Sprague, Judge in the Tenth District of Nebraska.
20 Barney.

21 JUDGE SPRAGUE: Members of the Court and friends:
22 Bill's golf swing has been much maligned because nobody has
23 seen him swing a soft ball bat. (Laughter.)

24 Bill, I had no idea six years ago when I swore you
25 in under much more humble circumstances than these that we

1 would all be here today. I am so impressed by this ceremony
2 that had I walked in in the middle of it and heard you taking
3 your vows of perhaps poverty and obedience, I would have
4 thought Brother Whelan had arranged an ordination. (Laughter.)

5 District Judges and their wives are going to miss
6 you, Jean, and you, Bill, and we wish you our very best in this
7 new and exciting phase of your lives.

8 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you, Barney.

9 MR. WHELAN: Thank you, Judge Sprague. And now
10 we would like to hear from one of the outstanding members
11 of the legal profession, bar or bench. Bill Hastings was
12 educated in Nebraska, attended the University of Nebraska,
13 University of Nebraska Law School, practiced law in Nebraska,
14 was a member of the District Court Bench for a number of years,
15 a member of the Nebraska Supreme Court and now he is our
16 Chief Justice. Could we heard from you, please, Mr. Chief
17 Justice.

18 CHIEF JUSTICE HASTINGS: Chief Judge Strom, and
19 the judges of the federal court, particularly Judge Cambridge
20 and your family, and may it please the Court: I decided I
21 would come all the way up from Lincoln, and I was going to
22 walk over here at least because for 24 years almost I have had
23 to sit there and listen to lawyers. For one time I am going
24 to stand here and make you listen to me! (Laughter.)

25 One of the problems I suppose with being last on

1 the list -- I had all this stuff written out. I worked on
2 it long and hard. I put it down on paper. I've got five
3 points. Judge Lay took care of one of them. (Laughter.)
4 Judge Strom took care of another one. (Laughter.) Judge
5 Beam, another. Judge Urbom and the master of ceremonies
6 took care of the last one. (Laughter.)

7 Well, it was a serious talk that I was going to
8 make because I was overawed by the fact of coming up here
9 before this honorable body and particularly in these,
10 as they have been referred to, "plush surroundings." I
11 remember my former partner John Dudgeon, came up here. We
12 tried mostly defense cases there, and the first time he
13 tried a case up here in Omaha he said, "Oh, Lord! I'm not
14 going to do that again." He said, "All that wealth. All
15 that opulence around there," he says, "You'll never get a
16 defendant's verdict in your life!" (Laughter.)

17 But everyone here has been saying "welcome." I
18 guess it is up to me to say "auf wiedersehen" on behalf of
19 the state court, but everyone has destroyed the shock value
20 that I was going to open up with and that was: For the
21 first time in over 50 years we can say about an inductee of
22 this court, "He is a good judge." Now, quickly before you
23 think that I am deprecating any of the other judges up here,
24 let me point out what has been pointed out, of course, and
25 I say it has been stolen from me, is the fact that this is

1 the first judge from the Nebraska state court system -- I
2 think he is the first one from the Nebraska state court
3 system to sit on this court, Judge Johnsen, of course,
4 excepted on the federal court, and Dundy, I guess, was a
5 territorial judge. But let me hasten to add that of course
6 I am talking now about Judges Van Pelt and Delahant and
7 Judge Robinson, all three of whom I have been privileged to try cases
8 before, and their records need no embellishment. The two
9 of them served long and faithfully and Judge Robinson,
10 beloved Senior Judge of this district, continues to serve.
11 Chief Judge Lay I have known for a number of years through
12 both bar activities and through church activities. Judges
13 Beam and Strom and Judge Urbom practiced law before me when
14 I was a judge, and let me tell you something that you all
15 know; Three more outstanding lawyers you would never find,
16 and I say that in all sincerity and that makes the job of
17 a trial judge exceedingly easy and also very pleasant to
18 have lawyers of that caliber, and of course now we can say
19 without reservation, they are good judges.

20 I was also, and I said this to Judge Strom and it
21 really didn't shock him too much and then I have seen the
22 respectful levity that has been introduced into these
23 proceedings so I am going to say it: Everybody is telling
24 Judge Cambridge what a tough job this is going to be. Well,
25 as I understand it, you have got to learn how to try EEOC

1 cases, prisoner's rights cases, and then if you run into
2 any problems, you certify them down to the Supreme Court
3 of Nebraska. (Laughter.)

4 Of course, then the real problem comes is when
5 and if that Court finds and writes an opinion answering the
6 question, to figure out what on earth it is that we have
7 said. If Judge Grant were here, I would say, "Jack, you
8 know what I am talking about." Judge Boslaugh will tell him
9 when he gets back. (Laughter.)

10 Well, you do join a distinguished bench, Bill,
11 and we are proud of you. We came to talk about you not
12 about these judges up here. Judge Cambridge, as you know,
13 served with distinction in the Tenth District for about
14 the last seven years. His record speaks for itself. He
15 possesses in the words of the statute -- you see the federal
16 judges don't have any of this by statute, but as you know
17 under the merit plan, why, there are certain things that
18 you have to be in order to be a judge, and that is: "That
19 you possess the required knowledge of the law, experience in
20 the legal system, intellectual capacity, fairness, probity,
21 temperament and industry," all of which qualifies you as a
22 state judge and which certainly qualifies you as a federal
23 judge.

24 Paraphrasing the Ten Commandments for a new judge,
25 which was written by Judge Edward J. Devitt, former Chief

1 in Minnesota of the United States District Court, Bill Cambridge
2 is kind, he is patient and dignified. He takes his work
3 seriously but never himself. He is not lazy. He does not
4 become dismayed if reversed, which I might say has been
5 few if at all. Ah, I guess maybe you must have been reversed
6 once. I don't know. He recognizes all cases as important.
7 He is reasonable in his sentencing, never forgets his
8 common sense and recognizes the need for divine guidance.

9 Judge Cambridge is and will continue to be a great
10 judge, and we in the state system -- judicial system -- commend
11 him to you with his service and reputation, knowing that he
12 will do an excellent job, and if I might impose on a more
13 another lighter moment, it has been interesting to me as
14 Chief Justice who is supposed to be the administrator of
15 all the courts of Nebraska to hear you people talking about
16 playing golf and softball. My hobby is fishing and boating.
17 Every April I take my boat out of storage in my neighbor's
18 garage. I put it on the driveway. I hook up a garden hose
19 so I don't burn it up. I start it and make sure it starts.
20 Put it back in my garage and the next November I will put it
21 back in storage. (Laughter.) So where on earth do you people
22 find this time to play golf?

23 Bill, it is a pleasure to be here, and we wish you
24 and Jean and your family well, and I know that the people in
25 Hastings particularly are proud of you, but we will miss you.

1 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you, Chief Justice
2 Hastings.

3 MR. WHELAN: Thank you, Chief Justice Hastings.
4 It is my pleasure to correct the Chief Justice which doesn't
5 happen very often, but you are not the last on the program.

6 CHIEF JUSTICE HASTINGS: Oh, well, I didn't mean
7 that.

8 MR. WHELAN: We have some more but I would like
9 at this time to introduce the committee for this. You have
10 met Duane Acklie and John Gale. I would also like to
11 introduce Ed Perry from Lincoln. Will you stand, Ed?
12 Jeff Orr from Kearney. Larry Yost from Fremont. Jerry
13 Strasheim from Omaha. And we have heard from Judge Sprague.

14 At this time I would like to recognize for remarks the
15 President of the Nebraska Bar Association. As Bob Kutak
16 once said, "Upon this Rock, I shall build the Nebraska Bar
17 Association." Harold Rock. (Laughter.)

18 MR. HAROLD ROCK: May it please the Court.
19 Thank you, Lieutenant Governor Whelan. Judge Cambridge, Mrs.
20 Cambridge, and family and friends, members of the bar and
21 the judiciary: I bring the greetings and best wishes of
22 all the members of the Nebraska State Bar to you, Judge
23 Cambridge. It is my privilege to welcome you to the federal
24 judiciary. I pledge the support and the cooperation of the
25 members of the Nebraska Bar as you make your transition into

1 your new duties. You will see a few new faces out here,
2 all of whom you should know wish you well and appreciate
3 the sacrifice demanded by the task you have undertaken.
4 You have your work cut out for you as I am sure you know
5 by the end of this what, as Chief Justice Hastings said,
6 most of it has been said, and I know that has been emphasized
7 and re-emphasized.

8 We are particularly fortunate to gain at the
9 federal bench an experienced jurist who has served so well
10 the bar in the Tenth Judicial District, and you are indeed
11 fortunate to have as your confreres Chief Judge Strom,
12 and particularly Senior Judges Robinson and Urbom who
13 continue to assist Judge Strom to carry the busy docket.
14 If I can wish any good thing for you, it would be that you
15 will show the same enthusiasm for your work that Senior
16 Judge Robinson has shown for 32 years on this bench and that
17 Judges Urbom and Strom have shown in their shorter tenures.

18 Let me also express the appreciation of the bar
19 for the assistance Senator Karnes gave us in moving the
20 nomination along and Senator Exon for his cooperation in the
21 confirmation process and to the other members of the
22 Nebraska Congressional delegation who were helpful. With
23 Congress preparing for a national convention, the nomination
24 process could have been foreshortened and Congress could have
25 adjourned before Judge Cambridge could be processed.

PEGGY CASPER
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1 But Chief Judge Strom's prayers were answered and
2 we are all very happy about that. (Laughter.) Today we
3 celebrate a grand occasion and congratulate you, Judge
4 Cambridge, and wish you well.

5 One matter that Justice Hastings mentioned and
6 Judge Lay, the other judge, Judge Woodrough, who came to
7 this bench from a prior judicial seat, came as a county
8 judge from a Texas county. Judge Woodrough at that time
9 didn't have to be a lawyer. When he went down there he
10 was about 21 years old and he sat on the county bench down
11 in Texas before he arrived at this bench.

12 One other matter should come before the Court
13 under Rule 3.3 of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct,
14 lawyers are required to exercise candor toward all tribunals.
15 Rather than have you think later that I was not entirely
16 candid today in my role as President of the Bar, I now wish
17 to tell you that two days ago a 55 dollar raise in your bar
18 dues was approved. (Laughter.)

19 I wish you well, Judge Cambridge.

20 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you, Mr. Rock.

21 MR. WHELAN: I am not sure whether I want to
22 say thank you or not. (Laughter.)

23 Judge Strom, I would ask personal privilege to
24 deviate from the program for a moment. I would like to
25 introduce the man who appointed Judge Cambridge to the

1 state bench, former Governor Charles Thone, would you please
2 stand. Do you want to say something?

3 MR. CHARLES THONE: No, Jerry. I always enjoy
4 coming to these investiture ceremonies here in these
5 hallowed halls as Don Ross occasionally reminds me, he
6 says, "That is as close as Charlie Thone will ever get to
7 God." (Laughter.)

8 MR. WHELAN: That wasn't so tough for me to do,
9 was it? (Laughter.)

10 I would also like to deviate from the program,
11 Judge Strom, to introduce one more person. When Bill
12 Cambridge was still in high school at Central High, Bob
13 Knight was the reporter in the Tenth District. He has been
14 our reporter for 40 years. Bob Knight has served as
15 faithfully and professionally as any reporter could. Bill
16 Cambridge is not only leaving the state court, Judge Hastings,
17 but he is leaving a good friend, as all of you judges know,
18 the court reporter shares with the judge many experiences
19 and possibly even a confidence or two, but Bob Knight has
20 served Frank Mundy and Edmund Nuss and Fred Irons and now
21 Bill Cambridge. So I know that you have mixed feelings
22 about that, Bill, as you ascend to the federal bench you
23 leave behind not only a lot of friends in Hastings including
24 this one, but you leave behind perhaps the most professional
25 and competent court reporter in the State of Nebraska.

1 Judge Strom, this completes my duties, and thank you.

2 JUDGE STROM: Thank you very much, Mr. Whelan.

3 I feel compelled to make a couple of remarks first, somewhat
4 as someone has remarked, the Court of Appeals isn't always
5 right necessarily, they are right because they are last,
6 but I have been reminded that I have been a little delinquent
7 in my duties. I don't want to take the entire responsibility
8 for that, but as Judge Van Pelt remarked so candidly when
9 he spoke at my installation, that regardless of what happens,
10 with the judge, the buck stops at his desk, and I really do
11 apologize. I did not introduce and I would at this time
12 like to present our former great Senator from the State
13 of Nebraska, the Honorable Roman Hruska. Senator Hruska,
14 would you please stand? And also a man who is recognized
15 as one of the great Attorney Generals this State has ever
16 had, the Honorable Robert Spire.

17 And one other thing, Judge Hastings, I would like
18 to comment that the reason that we on the federal bench have
19 time occasionally for golf is because we have solved the
20 problem of management. (Laughter.)

21 But I want to add to that also having taken a
22 hard look at those management problems, we have decided that
23 golf is important regardless of what happens. (Laughter.)

24 Well, Judge Cambridge, I think we have sort of
25 come full circle, and at this time I invite you to make such

1 remarks as you care to make in response to all of these
2 kind things that have been said about you today.

3 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: Thank you very much. Chief
4 Judge Strom, brothers of the bench and bar, distinguished
5 guests, and friends: I wish to thank all of you folks for
6 being here today. I know how busy you all are with busy
7 schedules and to think that you would take a whole afternoon
8 to come here for this is most heart warming. I know a number
9 of you have traveled a number of miles to come here, and
10 there are others of you who have spent considerable time
11 and energy and effort arranging this installation ceremony
12 here today, and I want you to know that my wife and I and
13 my family are deeply appreciative of that.

14 I would also like to thank you for all of the
15 cards and letters and support and encouragement that you
16 have given me and my family these past several months. It
17 has been absolutely overwhelming and heart warming to
18 think again that you would take the time to do this for us,
19 and we are deeply appreciative of it. There is no way --
20 well, maybe someone but not me -- I can't find words adequate
21 enough to thank you and convey to you how much we do appreciate
22 everything you have done.

23 I would like to take the time, but we don't have
24 it, to individually recognize each and every one of you here
25 because each and every one of you has made a substantial

3:12

1 contribution to my being here, but it reminds me of
2 Garrison Keillor in Lake Wobegone when they have Flag
3 Day -- I don't know, I know some of you are aware of that
4 record where they have the human flag. The whole town turns
5 out for it. They have different colored hats on, and they
6 form a flag. Everybody in town is down in the flag so they
7 have to take turns one at a time to go up on the store
8 building and look down on it. (Laughter.) And of course the
9 problem is that it takes all day and it gets a little lengthy.
10 That would be my problem here if I were to thank each of you
11 as I would like to do. Forgive me for not being able to
12 spend the time doing it, please.

13 There are several people I would like to recognize.
14 I want to recognize my wife and daughters, my immediate family,
15 for all of the support and the love and encouragement they
16 have given me through the years. Anybody who has been married
17 to a lawyer or the child of a lawyer or of a judge or anybody
18 who has been a close friend of one knows that this legal
19 profession is a very demanding one, and it sure helps when
20 you have somebody supporting you as my family has me. So I
21 am deeply appreciative of that.

22 There is a gentleman here I would like to recognize.
23 He is also a member of my family, my Uncle Boyd Cambridge,
24 if you would stand please, Boyd. Boyd is an attorney from
25 Atlantic, Iowa. He has practiced there for better than 50 years, didr

1 you, Boyd.

2 MR. BOYD CAMBRIDGE: Towards that.

3 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: All right, towards it, close to it,
4 and he did so with great distinction, and he has recently
5 retired. He is the reason really that I selected the field of
6 law as a career. He was a young man, and my family greatly
7 admired and respected him, and I kept hearing about him
8 all along and I thought I'd better try to get in on a little
9 of that, too, Boyd. So I credit you with my being really
10 up here today. Now I will have to be frank with you. There
11 has been times when maybe depending on whether the mood was
12 one of "ecstasy" or "agony" where I maybe instead of wanting
13 to thank you, would like to have cussed you a little bit,
14 (laughter) and I know that anybody who has practiced law
15 knows that, but I thank you seriously for the inspiration you
16 gave me, Boyd.

17 MR. BOYD CAMBRIDGE: Thank you, Bill.

18 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: I would also like to recognize
19 my aunt, Aunt Suzanne Wilson. Suzanne, if you would stand,
20 please. Suzanne is the widow of the late John J. Wilson
21 of Lincoln, Nebraska. It was John, we called him "Jack,"
22 and I don't know how many of you knew him, but he was a
23 fine, fine lawyer in Lincoln, Nebraska, for many, many years
24 and served the state also as an assistant bill drafter, or
25 he was the bill drafter and assistant reviser of the Statutes

1 for a number of years. He was, when I got out of the Army
2 in 1957, the President of the Nebraska Bar Association,
3 and I at that time was out knocking on the big doors trying
4 to find a position, and it was Jack actually, his conduct
5 and his activities that actually lead me to come to Hastings,
6 Nebraska, and I think you know, Suzanne, how much I appreciated
7 this support through the years, at least I hope that you do.

8 I would also like to, and this may border on Flag
9 Day here for a minute (laughter) but I do have several more
10 I would like to mention. I would like to thank Duane Acklie,
11 chairman of the committee for the arrangements here today.
12 I don't know what others think but I think it is a very
13 beautiful ceremony here and I wish to thank you for it.
14 I wish to thank you, Jerry Whelan, for your work as master
15 of ceremonies and also the other members of the committee
16 here that were asked to stand and be recognized here a few
17 minutes ago. Most of these gentlemen and I go back to law
18 school days and they were supportive back then and they have
19 been supportive all these years, and I want you to know I
20 appreciate that. One of them and I play a little bit of a
21 game whenever he meets somebody that he thinks might know me,
22 he tells them that if it hadn't been for him I never would
23 have got through law school and I do vice versa with him --
24 tell them the same, and we kind of enjoy hearing that. We
25 keep in touch that way. I suppose now I am going to hear that

1 if it hadn't been for him I never would have made the
2 federal bench. (Laughter.) And I think, of course, that
3 would be true. I will have to acknowledge it.

4 I want to thank you, Chief Judge Strom, for
5 presiding over this ceremony, and I want to thank you other
6 judges and each of you for your very kind remarks, and I can
7 assure you I will take them all to heart. Judge Lay mentioned
8 the "big shoes," and I know I have some awfully big shoes
9 to fill here. I pray to God that I will be able to do it.
10 I suffer no illusions about the work load here and what is
11 expected of a judge, and I am going to hold each of you
12 gentlemen to your offers of assistance and I want some of
13 that instruction of Judge Urbom's -- (laughter.)

14 JUDGE URBOM: Somebody is willing to take it.
15 (Laughter.)

16 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: I hope maybe in due course I
17 can try to act to like Judge Strom here and act like I don't
18 want it. (Laughter.)

19 JUDGE STROM: There are just some who need it more
20 than others. (Laughter.)

21 JUDGE CAMBRIDGE: I suffer no illusions about
22 that. I am sure I need it, and it will be most gratifying
23 to receive it.

24 I also would be remiss if I didn't thank you,
25 Senator Karnes, for your recommendation of my nomination to

1 the President, and I want to thank Virginia Smith for holding
2 firm for the Third District. Of course, that is where I come
3 from and Congresswoman Smith held firm for the appointment
4 to come to that district. Had she not, I might not be here,
5 and I am happy to be here.

6 I also want to thank Senator Exon for all he did
7 in connection with my appointment and for moving my confirma-
8 tion on the floor of the Senate just about two weeks after
9 my hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. I
10 appreciated that deeply and had he not taken some of the
11 actions he did take, my appointment to the bench could have
12 been delayed considerably, and who knows, maybe delayed
13 permanently.

14 I also want to thank Senator Karnes, Senator Exon,
15 and Virginia Smith and her husband Haven Smith for all the
16 courtesies you extended to us at my confirmation hearing
17 before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Those courtesies
18 were many and those kindnesses were many and they are very
19 deeply appreciated. They were extended not only to me but
20 to my family and I would like to thank each of you on behalf
21 of my family for those, too.

22 I would like to thank Steve Markman for coming all
23 the way out here from Washington to present this commission,
24 and I also thank you, Mr. Markman, for all your help and
25 assistance through this process which was great, the assistance,

1 and I am deeply grateful and I want to express my gratitude
2 to you for that.

3 Judge Sprague, I want to thank you for six and a
4 half plus glorious years. No judge could ask for a finer
5 co-judge than you were, and I think you know that. We have
6 talked about it before, and I am going to miss you, too,
7 as well as the district bench in the State of Nebraska,
8 and these fellows, they have got a little bit to live up to,
9 too, Judge Sprague, to live up to being as good a co-judge
10 as you were, and I thank you for it.

3:23

11 Jerry Whelan mentioned Bob Knight, and I also want
12 to recognize Bob Knight. Is Jackie here, Bob? Jackie, would
13 you please stand, too. This is Jackie Knight, Bob Knight's
14 wife, and I want to thank the two of you for six and a half --
15 well, not six and a half, there have been many, many years
16 more than that, but I particularly want to thank you for
17 these last six and a half where we have worked hand in hand
18 in the Tenth Judicial District. No judge could ask for a
19 finer court reporter, Bob, than you have been: never late,
20 always punctual. I have never known you to miss a word,
21 and how you get it all down is still amazing to me. It
22 always has been. I want to thank you for another special
23 quality and that is the humor that you would inject now and
24 then into our proceedings. This legal business needs a little
25 humor now and then simply to exist, and Bob is real good

1 about injecting a little humor along the way. And, Peggy,
2 I will expect that out of you now. (Laughter.)

3 I would like to take just a few more minutes, if I
4 could, to introduce my new staff here: Brad White. Are
5 you here, Brad? Mr. Brad White, he is one of my law clerks.
6 Brad comes from Lincoln, Nebraska. He went to the University
7 of Nebraska. He married a Hastings girl, Amy Foote. She
8 is the daughter of dear, close friends of Jean and I over
9 the years, and we are delighted to have you with us, Brad.
10 We have, of course, been moving to Omaha this week, and you
11 are going to be doing it next week, and I would like to help
12 you, Brad, but I have got an awfully lot of boxes! (Laughter.)

13 Are you here, Val? Valerie Thompson has agreed
14 to be a law clerk for me, too. She is from South Dakota
15 and is a graduate of Creighton University Law School, and
16 she has served as one of the late Judge Van Pelt's clerks,
17 and we are delighted to have her with us, too.

18 Now I would like to introduce my secretary, Marlene
19 Kennedy. There you are, Marlene. Marlene has agreed to
20 come along as my secretary, and I am fortunate there, too,
21 because at the time of Judge Van Pelt's death, she was
22 serving as his secretary and so she knows a little bit about
23 the ropes and I consider myself most fortunate to have her here.

24 Now just a few final comments: I look forward very
25 much to this unique and challenging opportunity to be of service

1 in the cause of justice in this state at this level. I
2 want you to know that I intend to direct all of my energies
3 toward the end of fulfilling the oath that I just took
4 and to do everything within my power to meet this new
5 responsibility with integrity, fairness, dedication and
6 humility. I hope to emulate the fine qualities of those
7 who have preceded me in this office, and there have been
8 some fine men and there are some very fine men and judges
9 and lawyers who are serving with me and that I am privileged
10 to serve with.

11 I, too, wish to do and to serve justice as they
12 have done, and in order to do so I must have, and humbly
13 request, the help, the cooperation, and prayers of all of
14 you -- the bench, the bar, and the people of the State of
15 Nebraska. There is no way one individual can do it all by
16 himself. It takes the cooperation and the work and the
17 dedication of many, many people, and I feel fortunate in
18 that regard because I think we have here in the State of
19 Nebraska one of the finest, if not the finest, legal systems
20 in the United States, and that is due to several factors.
21 One is the people of the State of Nebraska that demanded it,
22 and they have taken the action to insure that they have it
23 in such ways as the merit selection of judges and in other
24 manners and other ways that I won't get into now.

25 Another reason is the bar we have in the

1 State of Nebraska. We have an excellent bar throughout
2 the entire state. Of course, I am more familiar with the
3 Tenth Judicial District, but serving as a judge in that
4 district, of course, you meet and work with lawyers from
5 all over the state, and I can report to you that we have an
6 excellent bar. I am in awe of them, in awe of their brilliance,
7 I am in awe of their dedication, and their tremendous
8 competence.

9 I feel the same way about the bench here in
10 Nebraska. I am in awe of it. I am in real awe of all of
11 our judges, our state court judges in addition to these
12 gentlemen up here (indicating the bench).

13 Again, I wish to thank you and each of you for
14 being here today. There is no man deserves the wonderful,
15 good friends and family that I have, and I thank God for
16 giving all of you to me, and I am truly grateful.

17 I think, Judge Strom, that concludes my remarks.
18 I would, if I could, just mention one point. I didn't
19 clear this with anybody but I will clear it now, if I may.
20 A lot of these folks are from out of town and they see me
21 here and this will be my courtroom so they are going to realize
22 I am going to be in here, but I would like to have them also
23 see where I will be when I am not in here, and that is back
24 in here in my offices, or chambers as they refer to them,
25 and if that would be permitted, I would appreciate it if

3:30

1 perhaps with the help of the Marshal, you could let them
2 go through the office and see it and back out here in the
3 hallway before I hope they come to the reception that follows
4 here.

5 I do want to say, if I may tell one little
6 story about that. When I left the firm back in 1964 that
7 I was associated with to open my own office, our old office
8 firm where I left was in a building and we shared it with
9 an insurance agency there with other offices and one of
10 them was an insurance agency, the Brock Norris Agency and
11 Mr. EllerBrock who was an older man, a pretty salty guy,
12 pretty crusty, told a young associate who I think is here,
13 Jerry Gass -- Jerry, are you here? -- well, he told Jerry,
14 he said, "That young Cambridge is never going to make it."
15 And Jerry asked him why and he said, "Well, because he has
16 no books." Jerry, I want you to know and I know Eller Brock
17 has passed on but he probably knows it anyway, but I wanted
18 you to know if you come through there are a number of shelves
19 that have no books on them. (Laughter.) But there is a
20 room down here just busting at the seams with books. There
21 are more books on order and these shelves will all be filled.
22 Because Eller was right, you can't make it without the books.
23 (Laughter.) Thank you. That concludes my remarks at this
24 time.

25 JUDGE STROM: Thank you very much, Judge Cambridge.

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That then concludes this ceremonial session and I
call upon the Marshal to adjourn court. We will be in recess.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL: Court is in recess.

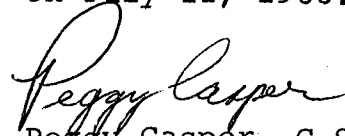
(COURT RECESSED.)

3:34 p.m.

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Peggy Casper, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
Official Court Reporter for the United States District
Court for the District of Nebraska, appointed pursuant
to the provisions of Title 28, United States Code, Section
653, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true
and correct transcript of the Ceremonial Proceedings had
in Courtroom Number Two of the United States Courthouse
in Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, on July 22, 1988.


Peggy Casper, C.S.R.