

Thank you. I appreciate having lunch out.

- I've been swimming noons at the University – getting fit for Legislative Session. I say -- bring 'em on.

As predictable as leaves falling off the trees, it's already started.

- If I had a buck for every time somebody asks me about the Presidential campaign, which is more than a year away, I'd be in great shape.
- On the very same day my administration completed the federal application for light rail, Rep. Carol Mulnau and Rep. Phil Krinkie made accusations that are not true with one intention and one only: to block progress.

I have something to say to these two legislators. Something that was originally said by Will Rogers. It's on the Hutchinson Mayor's answering machine: "Even if you're on the right track, if you're not moving, you're going to get run over."

This administration is going to run right over the House Republicans by being right on three things:

1. A structural, balanced budget with no new spending in the remainder of the biennium save for technical errors and omissions.
2. Policy over Politics – getting results, not re-elections.
3. Returning Government Back to the People...not leaving it in the hands of career politicians and bureaucrats.

Now a little bit about these three:

STRUCTURAL BUDGET:

- This is NOT a hard thing to understand – it's not spending more than is brought in – and returning to the taxpayers any extra revenue.
- Government has an appetite and I'm the conditioning coach.
- Bonding is MONEY. I have news for you and everybody else: Read my lips. We have a Triple A credit rating and we're going to keep it.

POLICY OVER POLITICS:

May the best ideas win.

I don't owe anything to anybody – and special interest groups don't owe anything to me. It's a liberating experience to measure ideas by what stands to get the best result.

That's what my cabinet is tasked to do.

In October, we'll roll-out the four focus areas of policy that will drive our discussions.

Answering the question, “What is the State’s Role?” is LONG overdue in everything from bonding to parenting.

AND FINALLY,
GOVERNMENT BACK TO THE PEOPLE

It’s called U...N..I..C..A..M..E..R..A..L

It means simple, easy to understand, and LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.

Since the last election, I’ve worked to shine the flashlight on all the goings on at the Capitol that nobody ever used to see.

I’ve talked about how decisions get made. I’ve talked about my frustrations over games.

POWER, POSTURING, AND POLITICS.

I’m changing the batteries so the light shines even brighter.

We’re going to talk about how government does – or doesn’t – serve the people.

Let’s look at the idea where 12 people appointed by leadership get to make final decisions with about one hour left of the biennial session and ask ourselves, “Is this any way to fund the services that people need?”

Let’s keep that flashlight on bright while we debate ideas like taxpayer money for stadiums...or expanding the role of education down to the birth of a baby.

Ultimately, it’s your checkbook.

And you need a greater voice in deciding which checks to write.