

April 14, 1992

was the greatest thing on earth. Thanks also to my son and daughter-in-law, Dave and Donalee, who did such an effective job of keeping things going at home so I could be down here, but particularly to my wife, Jo. Many of you know her. You know that she is a very able person but she has always been willing to accept the supportive role. She could have had a great career in about anything she had chosen, politics included, business, education, whatever, you know that she has the ability and the personality to do a lot of things, but she stayed home. She was raising the family and supporting me in whatever I wanted to do. And, thank you, Jo. I think at this time the words of a poem written by Sam Walter Foss really expresses my sentiment as well as anything. It's, "Let me live in my house by the side of the road where the race of men go by. They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong, wise, foolish, so am I. Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat or hurl the cynic's ban? Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man." Of course, if I happened to live in the house across the road to the south of the Capitol, I could be a much better friend of man. (Laughter.) Thank you. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: I now recognize Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. Tonight, it's my privilege and honor to present a plaque to Senator Elroy Hefner. In my opinion, Senator Elroy Hefner is the true gentle man of the Legislature, but that isn't to say he isn't a tiger when he's debating vigorously and effectively on many of the issues, whether it's fighting against the repeal of the death penalty or fighting for rural economic development and agricultural advantages. But he's a cool senator. Can it be because he's from Coleridge? He has served 16 years as vice chairman in the Revenue Committee, which is a record and, I think he'll agree, takes a lot of cool to do. But how many of us remember that fateful day when the showdown came between Senator Hefner and Senator Chambers? You remember that? Senator Hefner challenged Senator Chambers to the ultimate contest of testing his skill against Senator Chambers. Senator Elroy responded to Senator Ernie's response challenge that he could diaper a baby faster than Ernie could and, of course, that had to be a biodegradable diaper. If you'll remember, Elroy was big on biodegradable issues. Seriously, Elroy, you will be greatly missed, particularly by me. So many good things that you have done that will live on in our hearts of those who worked with you. You