

has done and had done in this body, but an interesting story I would like to relate to you about the sincerity this man had. In 1981...

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator Johnson. (Gavel.) Could we please hold it down so we can hear the speaker. Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you. In 1981, I was working as a legislative aide here for Senator Richard Peterson at the time, and I had decided that I would like to run for public office at some point, and I went to see Senator Kremer and Alice at his home in Aurora to find out whether he was going to run again, and I sat down with him in his home, and we talked for two or three hours, and he said, well, Rod, I haven't made up my mind what I am going to do, but he said when I do decide, you will be the first person I come to talk to. Well, in January of 1982, then, Senator Kremer one day showed up, one afternoon, in Senator Peterson's office and said I would like to visit with you, Rod. And he called me out in the hall and we visited awhile, and he said I have just notified the press that I am not going to run again, and he says I'd hoped that you would follow through with the goals that you have set because, he said, I promised you I would come and talk to you when I made my decision and I am here to tell you that I have decided not to run. I know he was under intense pressure from people in Aurora and Hamilton County to support a couple of the candidates that were running for that seat against me, but he said I have promised you and I have promised others that I would remain neutral in this campaign and I am going to continue to hold up to my word to that fact, and probably much to the disgust of some people in Aurora that he would not do that. But that is the kind of person he was, that he was fair and honest and I know he many times was very fearful to call me to let me know how he felt about issues because he felt like he was interfering with my decision-making, which I often told him, Maurice, please, your institutional memory would be very helpful to me, but, yet, he was very conscientious not to try and continue to serve as a senator, even though he wasn't here, but he was just a tremendous gentleman. And as I said, if it hadn't have been for Maurice and for Richard Peterson and Rex Haberman, and many others, and Dick Marvel, those are the people that kind of helped get me started in this business, and I am very grateful to all of them. So on behalf of Alice and Maurice's family, Ken, Bob, Ardys, and Beth, I want to thank all of the members