

April 9, 1990

the Legislative Bills basketball team. But, hopefully, you will send us a replacement that has some athletic abilities and we'll go that way. But we will surely miss Rod and wish him well in his endeavors. He apparently is not bowing out of politics altogether and that is part of the reason for his leaving at this time. So, Rod, if you would like to come up and be presented with your plaque. (Applause.)

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, folks, let me say it's...I never thought this day would come, as all of us sitting in this room at one point or another are going to have to face this day and I guess, at 32, I didn't think my career would be quite over this soon. But, you know, as Jerry said, I hope to do other things in politics. But, you know, nine years of my life I have spent in this body and, as Jerry has kind of highlighted, as I wrote down, went from a college boy, to a staffer, to a state senator, to getting married, to buying my first home, to becoming Chairman of the Agriculture Committee for the past six years, to a father for the first time, to finally becoming a candidate for Congress. And, you know, it feels like only yesterday when I was sitting where Senator Crosby is sitting, my first time. In fact, I was looking through my drawer, just kind of cleaning out the drawers, and ran across a picture of a very youthful looking, very trim young man that Senator Lowell Johnson took a picture of, and I showed it to my staff a little while ago and they said, I never knew you had looked that young and that trim. So I've...I guess I have lost something. But, you know, I have had some...I've had some...gained something, yes. Lost my looks but gained a few pounds. But, you know, I have had some folks in the Rotunda and in here say, Rod, you know, it's a tough break that you had to make a decision in a year where you're not in mid-term but, folks, I made the decision. I didn't have to do it but I did it, and I will accept the consequences of what happens on May 15th. And I'm grateful for all the people I have known and had a chance to work with, some faces are gone from my first class I was here, but for Gary Hannibal and Chris Abboud and Lee Rupp and Jim Pappas and Pat Morehead and deceased Clarence Jacobsen, and Ray Lundy and Don Eret, those are the people I came in with and I guess, Chris, we pass the baton onto you as the last remainder of that class. But, like my predecessors who spoke in here today, it's tough to leave because it's been such a big part of my life and all of us, I guess, will face this point. But whatever happens to me on May 15th or any course in life, I guess I'm just very grateful to all of you, to Rex Haberman who gave me my first job, to Dick