

January 9, 1991

disposal, and water rights, just to name a very few. It was Loran who introduced the bill that created the Department of Environmental Control. It was Loran who championed ethanol development, and it is Loran Schmit who has the experience needed to guide us legislatively through this time in the change of the area of natural resources. I have known Loran personally for over 30 years. He is a good friend of mine and we served the City of Columbus, my hometown, together. He is a good citizen. I urge the body to return Loran Schmit to the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT NICHOL: And thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I rise this morning to place my name in nomination for the Natural Resources Committee. As I start my ninth year in this body, I am probably the happiest guy in this body to be here under the circumstances in which I have returned, and, Senator Moore, I will give you that plaque back so that Senator Scofield can have it, but, nonetheless, in those eight years that I have served prior to today, six of those years I have served as Chairman of the, at one time, Agriculture and Environment Committee, and then later the Agriculture Committee. I have had a great deal of involvement as at least 39 of you know in the area of natural resources in agriculture, and as Senator Dierks has indicated, we are the garden state of this country. We are proud to have the resources that we have tried to protect and conserve and maintain for future generations, and, quite frankly, the decisions that we will make in this committee in the 1990s will be some of the most substantial, sometimes gut-wrenching decisions that we will ever have to make, but they are decisions that will not be felt today or tomorrow but maybe 10 to 20 or 30 years down the line. So I guess as I have been asked by people to categorize myself as a politician, I have said I am neither a conservative nor a liberal nor a moderate but, hopefully, I am a progressive individual who wants to see things move forward for the betterment of our state. And that is all I can offer you as my best talents. Those of you I have served with I know, hopefully, that you understand the style that I bring to this job. Those of you who I've not served with, I offer you my best talents and my total commitment to do a good job. Nine years ago when I took my first step into this body I promised myself that I would commit myself to do the best job possible for the people I represent. That is the same promise I make to you today. As I said, this committee I think is the