

February 22, 1991 LB 20

else that we can do. I assume that that means we don't have anything else we can do, besides this type of occupation. And I think that is poor policy, that we're simply trying to keep our options open. Senator Johnson comments about one of his opponents stated that he would never have run if he knew Rod was going to continue to run for the office. I would put to you that this amendment would not solve that dilemma. This amendment, if I were one of those people opposing Senator Johnson, and I now, with this amendment, know that he can file for both offices in the primary, I still don't know if he's going to win or not. I still, as a person who would want to seek Rod's spot, if I were in his district, and I would want to seek that spot, I don't know if he's going to win the congressional thing or not. So, if I don't file and he wins the congressional bid, now the people who did file will have a legitimate shot to run for the election in the general election, and I chose not to. He may, in fact, win or lose on the Third Congressional District, which in this case happened. And so then I would be glad I didn't file. In other words, the person deciding...the decision is not taken away from this point. He still has the dilemma, he still has to make a decision, that person has to make a decision to campaign, raise money, effectiveness of the family, his job and all of that, on the unknown that he doesn't know what's going to happen on the election with the senator whose now trying to run for both. So we make it just as equally...we make it difficult on the person that might want to run, but we try to make it easy on ourselves so we have something to fall back on. And I think that's lousy policy. I think Senator Warner had the perfect idea, what we should be doing, what I don't think we would have the courage to do, is simply say, well, we found the problem, the problem is not in the even...in the odd year...excuse me, in the even years it's a problem that they have to resign. What we should do is make the people in the odd year have to resign as well, then the playing field is equalled, not only for us, but for those who are seeking those positions as well. And I think this is poor policy, and I hope we reject the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. We'll now go to Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members. I won't talk a lot to this issue because the three previous speakers, including