

April 14, 1992

said last night, I am just happy to be here, but I feel like I have made 48 new friends and I am just proud that my wife and my son could be with us today, and I will remember all of you, and, hopefully, if you are in my area, you will stop in and remember me. Thank you. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Now recognize Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, members of the body, I am very pleased to be able to give this award. Frankly, I hadn't prepared much of a speech because I just assumed we would be mailing this one to Minnesota, but the recipient is here. Now there is a reason, Jerry, for my telling that story because I am sitting back here remembering five years ago, closing ceremony. Jerry and I shared a ride down in the morning because we needed to plot some strategy on veto overrides and such. We got through the day, and going through the closing ceremonies, the ceremonial motions, the Governor's speech, I left, went down to get a ride with Jerry. Jerry was about 50 miles north to Minnesota by that time. As a matter of fact, about the time he got to Sioux Falls, he realized that he had forgotten. So I didn't ride with Jerry that much after that. I am one member of the body that learned, Senator Chizek, about making sure that who you share a ride with in the morning will take you back in the evening, and I know some people didn't do that. I did want to give a flowery speech here about Jerry but Chuck Bisbee hadn't written it for me yet, so I am not going to be able to do that. On a more serious fashion, it was about eight years ago and a few weeks that the 31st Legislative District was represented by an incumbent appointed legislator who was planning his reelection campaign. It came to the day of filing deadline, not for incumbents, but for nonincumbents, and that individual chose at that time not to run for reelection. There was lots of scurrying around that day, seeking candidates to run for the office. Jerry was reached and was persuaded in a very short time to run, and even though he was somewhat of a reluctant candidate, he has never been reluctant about much of anything since then. He entered this body with a commitment to improving life for the working man, even though he isn't one any longer, definitely did want to improve life for the working man. He has been very dedicated to improving the quality of education in this state, and is very committed to improving the statutes and the position of law enforcement in the State of Nebraska. He has served well as Chair of the Judiciary Committee for many years. He certainly will be missed. I know Jerry well enough