

January 4, 1996

Board. And again, I say, that's a pledge that I've kept, I have kept an open door to every...to each and everyone of you. My other pledge is to fill the responsibility that the Chairperson and other leaders of the body have, and that is to enhance the image of the Legislature with its constituents. It's a responsibility that I have been working hard to fulfill, and I will continue to do in the coming months if I'm elected this morning. In my conversation with the members, it became apparent, obviously, that there was considerable interest in this position of Chairperson down the road, and because I am a man of my word, I am standing here this morning to tell you that I do not intend to seek a reelection to this position, but only to fill out the term that I am now seeking to fulfill. I feel it's of utmost importance that the board have continuity in its leadership now. And I do recognize there is time for change, but I think that change should take place come next January. Let me say that regardless of how the election turns out today, I can honestly say that I'm proud for the work that I've done since August, and I say "we" because it was with the help and assistance of the other members of the Executive Board that the things that we have been able to accomplish were accomplished. And to those board members who have worked with me, I certainly want to express my appreciation. And if I'm elected today I feel that I can continue to have their cooperation from the rest of the board members. You know, when I was a young boy just growing up my parents used to tell me one thing continually, and they tried to teach me that if I started a job I should finish it. All I'm asking from you today is a chance to finish this job. I would certainly appreciate your support, and for it I thank you very much.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Other nominations? Chair recognizes Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I'd like to place my name in nomination for Chair of Exec Board. Those of you that have worked with me for years know what I am. I thought perhaps about responding to some things that have happened, but I decided that that was not what I do. I'm not running against anyone for this position, but rather for the opportunity to represent the body and to assist in the smooth functioning of a body that we're all so proud of. In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to those of you that encouraged me to place my name in nomination. Thank you.