

April 18, 1996

(APPLAUSE)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: I have to say that the very best part of being Lieutenant Governor is presiding over the Legislature. And when I think about saying that it comes out kind of funny like maybe there aren't very many good parts to being Lieutenant Governor. But I enjoyed every minute of the last two years being the presiding officer, and I wished I would have presided more. Thank you very much, this means an awful lot to me. And especially to have my mother present it. Thank you, Mom.

(APPLAUSE)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President and members, although some of you might be enthusiastic looking to me, hoping that I'm going to announce that I'm not returning. That's not the case. I'm really here to present an award to Senator Withem. During this session, at one point as a number of us got up and thanked people for helping us pass legislation that we had been involved with, I turned to Senator Warner and I said, you know, it's beginning to sound like the Academy Awards, except we didn't thank our spouses. But that got me thinking about the whole idea of the Academy and what a great cast we have here. Certainly wouldn't take the risk of naming the best actor, best actress, best person in a supporting role, but I do think that...besides that, we'd have too many long acceptance speeches. But in thinking about movies, one of my favorite has been "Forrest Gump". And I tried to get Tom Hanks to come, but he's still floating up there trying, in Apollo 13, trying to get back to earth. But he did say this, if Forrest Gump were here, this is what he would say to the Speaker. The Legislature is like a box of chocolates, Ron, you never know what you're going to get. And I think that's true. I think it was true this session. And so for that I not only have a plaque for Senator Withem, but I have his very own Oscar, and it says, best producer/director of the 1995-96 session. And so I think all of us feel that way, Ron, tremendous amount of work done and you did a great job never knowing quite what was going to happen or what you were going to get. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)