

April 18, 1996

us, I think, look good at those times that we do look good. And I do want to thank them. In particular I want to thank some people who've contributed enormously to whatever success I may have had and that is to, to my own staff. Gene Eckel is a, is a bright, personable, diligent person, has been a tremendous legislative aide for me. Bonnie Sittig, my committee clerk is...for those of you who are familiar with the committee know that Bonnie is there well after the committee leaves at night. She's there on weekends filling in all the paperwork for the enormous workload we have. Is just an extremely, extremely good worker. Kevin Duffy is, I believe, the best analyst in this building. He's just a tremendous, tremendous person to take a look at legislation and tell you what's going to happen with it. Donna Pettit is the, is the epitome of loyalty, a tremendous person who I think watches me more like a son than, than like a senator, really looking out for me. And Mike Loeffler, who's been with me since the beginning, is more like a brother than an aide and has been very helpful for me. The...in my, my time down here I've had the title Senator, in the committee I've had the title Chairman, in my law practice I have the title Counselor, but the title I've enjoyed most has been Dad. And I get a chance now to go back and play T-ball with Johnny, to fly a kite with Patrick. A good friend of mine, Dwite Pedersen, once...or tells the story, I should say, that when people thank him for the sacrifices that we make as senators, he always says, don't thank me it's my family that sacrifices. And that is the case. That is the case. Let me tell you about a...let me tell you about a young bride who planned a wedding on her own because her fiancée was campaigning. Let me tell you about a young newlywed who spent those early marriage nights alone because her new husband was working late in committees. And let me tell you about a young mother who cared for a newborn alone because her...the child was born at the beginning of a legislative session. And then repeated it again when a second son was born. And I know she has been frustrated and angry at times, I guess, when a family function takes second place to a campaign event or to a committee hearing. But mostly she's been accepting, she's been supportive. And, Mary Beth, thank you. (Applause) Let me...and thank you for, for that round of applause for her, she deserves it. But let me also add that all of our spouses deserve that. And tonight when you, when you go home, give your spouse a kiss and thank them for the sacrifice that they make to allow us to serve here. And I guess I would throw an exception in there. DiAnna, I would understand, none of us would want to

15886