

April 18, 1996

press report how he thought he had got the Governor to understand the key legislative issue. And since that time I don't know how pleased the Governor was with that appointment after that, after that fact. Seriously, David's going to be missed a lot. I think there...we all know Dave and we tend to know Dave a lot from his floor speeches and his concern that he exhibits when he deeply cares about an issue. But on reflection I think there are other things about Dave that are as important that are going to make him missed greatly by the Legislature. Counter to his image, I found David to be one of the very best legislators in here when it comes to behind the scenes involvement, in terms of knowing what the process is, anticipating what the impact of an amendment might be, lining up votes. As a matter of fact, for each day, each Legislature, you know, we have two sessions, a first and a second totaling 150 days. For 149 of those he's the best vote counter we have in the body. That other day, which tends to be the, the very first one when we, when we do reorganization his vote counting skills may not have been as good. But he very much is a very good vote counter and a very, very good strategist. He's really had his mark on a lot of the very key pieces of legislation since he came into the body, such things as the issue I was saying somewhat in jest before, the initial bomb that was dropped on us by the Supreme Court dealing with the railroad property and its ability to be taxed. LB 1059, Senator Wesely, the good LB 1059, not the most recent one, but LB 1059, which was passed by the Legislature and changed the way in which school financed. Scotty Moore and I were the two that had our names on the bill, but David was one of the very few who was working behind the scenes to, again, work on amendments and try to pull in the key support to get that passed, juvenile justice legislation, open enrollment, supporting the pay of teachers after he left the teaching profession. Our redistricting plan, if you can recall, those of you that were here back in 1991, none of us had been through that before and nobody really knew how to do it, and David pretty much took the bull by the horns and brought, brought that about. He also has been one of the strongest advocates for tobacco companies' rights to give free samples (laughter), a few other issues like that, which maybe we won't bring up here today. But in the end, David has always done what he believes is right. He has always been one who forgets what sometimes we tend to forget, and that is that as we make decisions down here, we're really impacting on people in our state. We sometimes view each other and it becomes a win or

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