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he was propped up. He was gesticulating with his arms and he was animated and he was talking about, well, I'm a candidate for this procedure, and if that doesn't work there's this other option, and if that doesn't work there is a third thing we could try, and if that doesn't work, well, then it's time to get right with God. And he said it just that way, no tears, no moping. He was very upbeat and just charging ahead and looked at everything as an opportunity, including the opportunity, if necessary, to, as he put it, get right with God. And he was talking a good game, but Vickie was there the whole time and she was standing stone still next to his bed, and her face was drawn and her eyes were somewhat swollen and red, and she wasn't saying anything. And we finished our visit and my boys and I are leaving the hospital and my younger son said, Dad, was that his wife standing next to the bed? Said, yes, it was. Said, she looked sad. Said, yeah, she did. Why was she sad? Well, why do you think she's sad? And my son said, I think she's afraid he's going to die. I said, I think you're right. And he said, he's a brave man, isn't he, Dad? I said, yes, he is. And he was, and I will never forget him. If I could look into a crystal ball and see myself returning to the Legislature someday, that would make me very happy. And I want to make sure I leave you with this, because I know I've done my share of complaining about some aspects of the way we do business, but I love the Legislature, I really do. I told a reporter the other day, I get the same feeling coming into the Chamber that I think athletes or coaches get when they come into an arena or they come onto a field for a game. The moment of truth has arrived; it's time to resolve the contest. Let's knock heads. Let's compete fiercely but honorably. We'll see what the final score is. Then we all agree to accept the result and then move on to the next contest. And it sounds so simple and so reasonable, but look around the world and look through history. The way we do business is not the rule; it's the exception. We're so fortunate. I feel so fortunate to have been a part of that American legacy of successful self-government as we practice it here in the Chamber. So that's why I say if the crystal ball shows me coming back some day, that would be great. I would welcome it. But today it's farewell, and so let me just say, colleagues, that it has been a privilege serving with you. Please consider me a friend for life, because that is how I