

January 9, 1985

Jim and feel like he would be a very fair and a very respected Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee and I would urge your support for Jim.

PRESIDENT: Are there other nominations? The Chair recognizes Senator Rod Johnson. Members will please (gavel), please be quiet in the Chamber, please. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I rise equally to nominate myself for this position. I have been in this race since August 10th as has Senator Sieck in the month of August. I have been diligently pursuing this position and probably in a rather zealous way and probably I have been bothering some of you too much, but I wanted you to know that this position is very important to me. It is equally my lifestyle. It is the lifestyle of my family, my friends, my neighbors and my constituents. I believe in agriculture, I believe in its future and I am going to do all I can as a representative in this body and hopefully as a chairman of that committee to help put agriculture back on its feet. I sense a sense of frustration in the country right now. I see it in the faces of my friends. I hear it in their voices and in watching a documentary not too long ago I once heard President Lyndon Johnson commenting on his frustration with a growing escalation of the Vietnam War, make a comment that I think is applicable today. He said, "You know, I feel like a lonely hitchhiker on a Texas highway in the middle of a hailstorm. I can't run, I can't hide and I sure as hell can't make it stop." But we can make it stop right here today in this vote and in this body and begin to make the wheels turn, hopefully, to begin to bring agriculture back. I think that the meeting held yesterday by many of the farmers and ranchers throughout this state who came here to express their feelings about agriculture, I hope has begun to get the wheels going. We have been meeting as representatives and as men and women to try and solve this problem. But I am hoping with your help that you can elect a body of people in this particular committee that will work hard because it is not the chairman, but the committee in this body that will resolve the differences that agriculture has. The problem is here, the problem is in Washington, the problem is in Chicago and the problem is all over, but I am not willing to accept defeat. I am willing to keep trying and hopefully in the end, agriculture will be back on its feet because I believe