

April 14, 1992

is retiring from the Legislature after 12 years and representing the 21st Legislative District, wherever that happens to be at this time. He was born in Madison County, went to school there. He served on school boards and various public entities for many years. They have five children to help in keeping him in line along with Kay, Michael, Sandra, Karen, Julie, and Richard J. He has been active in his church, and many, many local organizations. He is a farmer, businessman, and beekeeper. And, of course, we have noticed that one of the trade's tools of beekeepers' is smoke, and I am sure he has spread a little of that among us while we did that same thing here. His joy has been to help his constituents, and it gives him more pride to help an individual in his district than some of the many bills he has helped pass. In his first term, he was the senator that supported and maintained and kept open the Norfolk Regional Center, and this year he has been very instrumental in what probably will be saving the state many millions of dollars in allowing state-owned buildings in the Department of Administrative Services to centralize and to be used together. He has been active on the national level in the Council of State Legis... in the National Council of State Legislators, Council of State Governments, as well as the American Legislative Exchange Council. He continues to contact with our people in the federal government. Dick has a great sense of humor. He was asked recently what he is going to do when he gets out of here, and I understand he said, well, didn't you know I am going to start writing editorials for the Norfolk Daily News, and before I arrived, it has been related to me when there was a lady named Sharon Apking, who was a senator, she had the habit of taking off her shoes in the Chamber. One day her shoes disappeared. Understand that I having not been here to know for sure, but they were discovered in Richard's desk sometime later, but I don't know if he will be willing to answer that question. I first met Richard six years ago when campaigning for my first term in this Unicameral, and have been his seat neighbor since. Senator Goodrich and Senator Peterson delighted in offering good counsel to all of us back there, and more especially to Steph Johanns and Sharon Beck when they were back there. He, Lowell, and Elroy, and past Senator Remmers were strong in their opinion that I should file and run for a position in this body. I am not sure I thank them for that, and I am not sure that they did the body a favor either. The next several years here may make all of the retirees grateful for making their respective decisions. In conclusion, let's say, Dick, you have smoked out many problems, kept busy as a bee, and proved to be one honey of

13382