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family and your community and your friends. Yes, you've been effective, as all those personal qualities are the ones that make it possible for you to be effective. You've shown integrity and dedication in service to this state and community and this Legislature and throughout your life. There are many that I have been proud to serve with, but Senator Lowell Johnson and Ruth have exemplified those that I have most appreciated. And, Lowell, if you'd come up, on behalf of the members of the Legislature I take great pleasure in presenting you this plaque in recognition of your dedicated service during the period that you've been here and throughout your life, and I know that we will hear from you in other areas as you return home. So thank you very much, Lowell. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Madam President, Senator Warner, members of the Legislature, staff people and friends all, it's never easy to let go of something, even like a legislative career, something that has been such a part of your life, that is even a part of your name. I've been privileged or I was privileged to be present on the floor of this very beautiful Chamber when the first Unicameral session convened in 1937. Senator George W. Norris said on that occasion, quote, "You have an opportunity to render service to your fellow citizens that no other Legislature has ever had," close quote. His words that day enthused this 16-year-old, at the time, with the feeling that there could be no greater honor than to serve in this body. Nineteen eighty-one finally provided the opportunity to realize that ambition and I have really enjoyed three terms of service here. It took 44 years to move from the position of a spectator to an active participant, but the journey's result has been relished and will always be cherished. Probably the most poignant impact of a moment like this is the final realization that we are all expendable. Certainly all of us make a contribution in one way or another, but it is tempting to believe that when we step down the whole system could come to a standstill and, of course, that's not true. One tree falls, but the forest remains. Also, one suddenly realizes how singularly fortunate we have been to even be here at all. It has been my privilege over the years to see above the crowd only because so many have carried me on their shoulders. Hundreds of my District 15 constituents and volunteers have contributed their time and resources over the years. Responsible and always helpful legislative support personnel and talented, loyal staff have provided critical