

THE FIFTY-FOURTH DAY

CARSON CITY(Friday), March 26, 1999

Senate called to order at 10:31 a.m.

President Hunt presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, the Reverend Bruce Henderson.

We come before You today to thank God it's Friday! We have passed some milestones this week, and next week we'll pass the half-way mark in our time here. We are grateful for the privilege of serving You while we serve the people of this great state. May our batteries be recharged this weekend, and may we never forget the people and their needs. We pray this in the Name each of us holds dear. I pray in the Name of Jesus.

AMEN.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Senator Raggio moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with, and the President and Secretary be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Madam President:

Your Committee on Government Affairs, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 301, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

Also, your Committee on Government Affairs, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 91, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and re-refer to the Committee on Finance.

Also, your Committee on Government Affairs, to which were referred Senate Bills Nos. 183, 371; Senate Joint Resolution No. 7, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

ANN O'CONNELL, *Chairman*

Madam President:

Your Committee on Human Resources and Facilities, to which were referred Senate Bills Nos. 9, 21, 22, 89, 126; Assembly Bill No. 2, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

RAYMOND D. RAWSON, *Chairman*

Madam President:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which were referred Senate Bills Nos. 121, 322, 347, 360, 361, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

Also, your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 321, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and re-refer to the Committee on Finance.

MARK A. JAMES, *Chairman*

Republican members who controlled the Senate at that time. It is hard to find men such as some of the Democrats who were friends of mine in that Senate. Some of them weren't, but most of them were.

I would like to refer to a little thing that Jake said about getting sperm from the trout at Marlette Lake. You know Jake, I always wondered what those old females that floated up and down that lake were saying.

Bill, as I told one of the Senators a few minutes ago, to have the privilege of speaking from the floor as a non-voting member of this Senate, is certainly a privilege. I am not sure that we ever allowed it during the time I served here. There was a time when we allowed some people to speak, but they had to speak from the Lieutenant Governor's podium. They did not speak from the floor. You can see what an honor it is for me to be able to speak from the floor today.

Bill, I thank you. I thank all of the Senators, and I appreciate very much this honor that you have extended to me.

Resolution adopted.

Senator Raggio moved that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 11:02 a.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 11:09 a.m.

President Hunt presiding.

Quorum present.

By Senators Raggio, Amodei, Care, Carlton, Coffin, Jacobsen, James, Mathews, McGinness, Neal, O'Connell, O'Donnell, Porter, Rawson, Rhoads, Schneider, Shaffer, Titus, Townsend, Washington and Wiener:

Senate Resolution No. 5—Inducting Thomas R. C. "Spike" Wilson II into the Senate Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, The Senate of the Legislature of the State of Nevada has established a Senate Hall of Fame whose members are selected by leadership from former state Senators who have served with distinction with exemplary contributions to the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, As a representative of Washoe County, Senator Thomas R. C. "Spike" Wilson II was a highly respected member of the Senate for 16 years serving in leadership for 10 years, with 8 years as Assistant Majority Floor Leader and 2 years as President Pro Tempore; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Senator Wilson initiated a major revision of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and led the negotiations with key legislators from California, resulting in passage of the Compact by the Nevada Legislature and ratification by the Congress of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That Thomas R. C. "Spike" Wilson II, a man admired by persons throughout the State of Nevada for his honesty, integrity and service to this state, is hereby inducted into the Senate Hall of Fame of the Legislature of the State of Nevada.

Senator Titus moved the adoption of the resolution.

Remarks by Senators Titus, Raggio, Jacobsen, O'Connell, Neal, Townsend and former Senator Thomas R. C. "Spike" Wilson II.

Senator Titus requested that the following remarks be entered in the Journal.

SENATOR TITUS:

Thank you, Madam President. I am delighted to speak on behalf of Senate Resolution No. 5 today and to have former Senator Spike Wilson seated at my desk. Not only is Spike Wilson a very nice guy, with a very strange signature, but he is one of the most outstanding alumni of this body. In fact, I can think of no one who better deserves this honor than Spike Wilson. As you heard, from the resolution, and as you can read in the program, Spike Wilson served for 16 years in the Senate as a Democrat from Washoe County. He was known for his eloquence on this floor, and with all due respect to the current chairman, he is still being talked about as the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Everyone says, "remember those days when Spike Wilson chaired the Judiciary Committee."

During his tenure, he had a number of outstanding accomplishments here in the Senate. He was a pioneer in the efforts to reform campaign finance law and also in revising the state's racketeering law. Of special interest to me was his work in renegotiating the Tahoe Compact and introducing legislation to require master planning and protection of public lands in Nevada.

Since leaving the Senate, he has not disappeared from the scene. He is one of the most respected attorneys in this state. He has also given back to the community in his continued public service as a member of the Ethics Commission. In fact, he is known as having revised Nevada's Ethics Statutes. He is certainly one of the most respected members of the Democratic Party, but he is admired, respected and just plain liked by members of all parties throughout this entire state.

I would urge you to adopt Senate Resolution No. 5 and give him the recognition that he deserves.

SENATOR RAGGIO:

Thank you, Madam President. In the tradition of the Senate, obviously we want to support the resolution on both sides of the aisle. I am also delighted, on behalf of the Republican membership of the Senate, to recognize Spike Wilson. I might indicate that Spike Wilson is not only a person whom I had the privilege of serving with in this body, as did Senator Neal, Senator Jacobsen, Senator Townsend and Senator Shaffer, but Spike is from a more current era than Wilson McGowan was. I think it is a nice tie-in that Wilson is in both of these names. I think it signifies the spirit of the Senate, in those days, because we had very little partisanship and very little sectional issues. As our distinguished Minority Leader said, the Senator we now honor, was an eminently fair and highly respected member of this body. In the years that he served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the Legislature dealt with many complex issues. This was during the period when Nevada grew from a small population into the era today in which we are one of the fastest growing states in the nation.

Spike was always someone you listened to when he rose to speak. Whether you agreed with him on the issue or not, due to his eloquence, you knew that he was speaking on something important. I say "eloquence" because he always spoke a little above what we could understand and, because of that, very little of what he said got passed. We always thought that he was saying something important even though we did not always understand what he was saying.

Seriously, he was in the forefront of efforts, in this Legislature, to reform ethics. As Senator Titus previously indicated, he went on to really establish a very effective Ethics Commission in the State of Nevada. He served as chairman of the commission. During his term, many opinions were rendered which serve as a meaningful precedence today.

In addition to his duties in the Senate, he has been recognized as a political leader in this state and certainly as a community leader. He is highly respected, not only as a member of the Bar, but also as a leading citizen of this state.

We are very honored today to have him receive this recognition, and I am very honored to have him as a friend.

SENATOR JACOBSEN:

Thank you, Madam President. I certainly rise in support of this resolution. I have always called Spike "Governor" since I felt he was governor material. Even as a good Republican, I would have voted for him, and I still would.

I could tell you a story or two, but I am going to refrain from that. I will mellow this down. I want the present Chairman of the Judiciary Committee to listen to what I am about to say. In his day, there was no better committee to be on because, the first thing when you sat down, there showed up a cup of coffee. Not being a coffee drinker, I

drank it anyway. That always amazed me, but I think what amazed me most was that I never saw anyone who could drink more coffee than could Spike. Often it was late in the afternoon after it had been sitting there all day. It reminded me of the Navy where, once you drank the coffee, you could walk on water. It took a lot of fortitude to drink that coffee. He was certainly one of my favorites in the body at that time. He was certainly one of the most eloquent speakers in this body. In those days, when I first came to the Senate, most of the members were attorneys. So, a little farm boy like me didn't have a chance to say anything. I have always admired Spike and his whole family. In regard to his father, there was never a better historian than Tom Wilson. I spent a week on a bus touring Nevada with him and what a joy that was. Spike has certainly held up that heritage. I want to commend him for serving on the Ethics Commission which is no easy job.

"Spike, it is nice to have you in the Senate Hall of Fame."

SENATOR O'CONNELL:

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to publicly thank former Senator Wilson because, when I first came to this body, he was one of the major players whom I looked up to and that I always listened to. I told him one day on the elevator that I loved to listen to what he was saying, and I really appreciated it, but I didn't have a clue as to what it was about.

He has remained in my life from the standpoint of the Ethics Commission. On several occasions throughout the years of his retirement from the Legislature, he has made himself available to give me good counsel on the ethics bill. The ethics bill we are going to hear in committee is no exception. Spike volunteered his time to come down and go over the bill with me. I consider him a very good friend even though we do not know each other that well. I admire and respect him and do not want to let this occasion pass without publicly telling him so.

SENATOR NEAL:

Thank you, Madam President. I cannot let this moment go by without having a few words to say about my good friend Spike Wilson. In checking the record, you know that when I came here in 1973, Spike was here. We developed a friendship. There were some things that really drew me close to Spike during the time that we were negotiating the power regional compact. At that time, I was serving as Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. When the team was selected to negotiate the compact, I was left out. Spike made his views known about this and somehow I was then included to participate with that group.

As the years went by, sitting here and watching Spike debate issues as did Carl Dodge whom I thought was another of the premiere legislators, I learned a lot from those gentlemen from how they handled themselves on the floor, addressed issues and talked about issues and not personalities. I certainly appreciated the time that I served with Spike and I learned a great deal from him. Maybe some of the Senators here now may think that I should not have learned so much from him. I'm glad that he is being inducted into the Senate Hall of Fame and that it is not being done posthumously.

SENATOR TOWNSEND:

Thank you, Madam President. All of us have wonderful stories, not only amusing and entertaining, but positive and constructive ones about former Senator Wilson. I would like to share mine. The first time I ever appeared in this building was as an unpaid lobbyist regarding utility issues. I appeared in front of the committee chaired by former Senator Wilson. I will tell you that, as someone who knew very little about this process at the time, who had long hair, a beard and probably dressed somewhat like I do today, he showed me a great deal of respect, not only personally, but for the issue that was in front of him. I watched him manage a very difficult committee on issues, and I learned a great deal from that first experience. He showed me the kind of patience that you should show someone who appears here the first time. I think about that on a regular basis.

My wife was nice enough to pull up from the archives a newspaper headline from 1982 when I won election for the first time. In the subheading, it said Spike Wilson re-elected. I have that mounted in the hallway to the bedroom in my home. It is at eye level. Every day when I leave my house, the term "Spike Wilson re-elected" is in my vision. When I do so, I try to come here and be half as good a chairman as he was when he served in this body. I will always appreciate it.

FORMER SENATOR WILSON:

Thank you, Madam President. It has been a while since I've done this, and I promise you I will make it brief. Bill, you brought back memories in talking about my Senate floor remarks. Oftentimes when I was speaking to you on issues, I did wonder whether you understood what I was saying.

I've been sitting here drinking water. You know, lawyers and Senators are much like plants. They lose body water. It is called the process of evapotranspiration. Plants take it out of the soil, but when we open our mouths, it is really the same process. I must confess to you, when we walked in here this morning and the pamphlets were passed out, and the same picture is on the easel, my various children looked at me and back at the picture, and they all had some comment to make. None of them are terribly understated in the way they express themselves. I do want to confess, for the record, that any resemblance between that picture and me today is purely a matter of coincidence. At that time, there was hair and it was dark. It is a very flattering picture, and I thank you for it. I also thank you for inviting me here today. It has been great fun to be back. It is the best of both worlds. I can stand and make a speech that Bill Raggio will shake his head at and tell me that he doesn't understand; I don't have to do any work, and I don't have to vote. That truly is the best of both worlds.

To many of you who I served with, it was great fun. It was perhaps in a more innocent time. There were 21 of us here at that time and in Wilson's time only 17. There is a difference, but not a material one. This is a terribly small Senate. The beauty of it is that I don't recall, in those more innocent days, where we ever had a party caucus on a vote. I don't think we ever did, not because we decided not to do it, but because it was never necessary. No one ever viewed their colleagues with a party label and nobody debated from a partisan perspective. It was difficult enough just to get the work done and to make good policy decisions. I enjoyed that immensely because the discussion, dialogue and debate, the consideration and the worry really had to do with what was good public policy and what was not.

It is a pleasure, with my family, to join you here today. This is probably the briefest speech I have ever given, Bill. I thank you for the honor and the recognition. It is touching. I don't know if it is warranted, but I am flattered and complimented. I appreciate your having me here very much.

Resolution adopted.

Senator Raggio moved that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 11:31 a.m.