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Short Assignment 3

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In the article, “Stern to Retire as NBA Commissioner,” the author talks about David Stern’s, current NBA commissioner, decision to retire after 30 years. He plans to officially step down February 1, 2014. Stern has transformed the league into a billion dollar industry. Before Stern came into office, the NBA championship was not even shown on live prime-time television. Now over a $5 billion a year industry, Stern has made the NBA what it is today. Stern is said to be the “model sports commissioner,” because he has affected every important policy made in the NBA including drug testing, salary caps, and dress codes. Stern, now 70 years old, has served as NBA commissioner the longest in history. Union executive director, Billy Hunter, explains the loss the NBA will feel when Stern retires, but knows Adam Silver, Stern’s successor, will be extremely qualified too for the job, “His absence will surely be felt by anyone connected to the NBA and the sport of basketball, although clearly the league will be left in very capable hands with the appointment of Adam Silver as the next commissioner.” Adam Silver, 50 year old Deputy Commissioner, plans to step into NBA commissioner’s role on February 1, 2014, when Stern retires. Silver realizes what big shoes he must fill as he comments to Stern, “For all the things you’ve done for the NBA and for sports generally, I think there’s no doubt that you’ll be remembered as the best of all-time as commissioners go and you’ve set the standard, I think not even just for sports league commissioners, but for CEOs in any industry.” Stern explains how he is not exactly retiring, but just stepping down. He loves his job, but he is looking forward to doing other things now.

The textbook, *Adult Developing and Aging*, defines retirement as “the withdrawal of an individual in later life from the labor force.” Retirement may sound like an easy concept, but in reality, leaving the workforce once and for all is a process. The first stage of the retirement process is the anticipatory period, which may last for decades. The second stage of the retirement process is the decision to retire, and the third stage of the retirement process is the actual act of retirement. The fourth stage of the retirement process is the continual adjustment after retiring, and the fifth stage of the retirement process is the continuing of making adjustments to one’s new life structure. Usually retirement is not an exact point in time when one leaves the workforce, but a “blurred” memory when they leave and re-enter the workplace several times, before leaving for good. Many older adults find themselves seeking bridge employment, such as a fast food employee or a crossing guard, to help with their finances. Someone is typically considered retired when they have stayed out of the workforce for a period of time and have not gone back.

The textbook explains how older adults who are retiring do not actually leave the workforce overnight and never look back. This is evident through the article on David Stern’s retiring as NBA commissioner. He even explained himself that he is not retiring, but just stepping down. He is finding bridge employment for himself, because he has not completed the entire retirement process yet. In the article, the author explains how Stern has been thinking about retiring from the position as NBA commissioner for over six months now. This was the first stage in the retirement process, called the anticipatory period, which can take up to ten years for some people. David Stern may not be fully retired just yet, but it is clear he has started the retirement process.

Works Cited

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