

Second Day of Legislative Organizational Session

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Sixty-first Legislative Assembly

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Bismarck, December 2, 2008

The Senate convened at 9:00 a.m., with President Dalrymple presiding.

The prayer was offered by Dr. Keith Ritchie, Cornerstone Community Church, Bismarck.

The roll was called and all members were present except Senator Kilzer.

A quorum was declared by the President.

MOTION

SEN. CHRISTMANN MOVED that the Senate stand in recess until 9:10 a.m., at which time there will be a Joint Session in the House, and that the Senate will then stand in recess until 1:15 p.m., which motion prevailed.

THE SENATE RECONVENED pursuant to recess taken, with President Dalrymple presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PRESIDENT DALRYMPLE ANNOUNCED a presentation on legislative ethics and laws and rules governing the activities and conduct of public officials by Jay E. Buringrud, Assistant Director of the Legislative Council.

REMARKS OF MAJORITY LEADER STENEHJEM

Each one of us here should feel blessed to be part of this Sixty-first Legislative Assembly. It is an honor and a privilege to serve the voters in our respective districts that had the faith to elect us to this chamber. But that comes with an enormous responsibility. We are expected by our constituents to live up to a standard that is consistent with the position of being elected a North Dakota State Senator. We are servants of all the people in North Dakota.

Defining ethics is very difficult because not everyone has the same idea of what is right and wrong and what is really ethical or unethical. I believe the definition includes principled leadership with values that include respect, dignity, honesty, integrity, fairness and compassion. During our time here we will be making decisions that will affect the people of North Dakota for many years into the future.

As Senators, we must respond to the public trust with integrity, honesty and objectivity and be impartial in our decisions. We must at all times uphold the public trust and in a way that will hold up under the closest public scrutiny. We cannot allow our private interests to overshadow our public responsibility.

I am using a quote by Vaclav Havel which I have used before and sums up how I feel about politics, "Genuine politics - even politics worthy of the name - the only politics I am willing to devote myself to - is simply a matter of serving those around us: serving the community and serving those who come after us. Its deepest roots are moral because it is a responsibility expressed through action, to and for the whole."

At the end of this session we must be able to face our constituents, and all North Dakotans, and be able to honestly say that we have done our very best for the people of North Dakota.

REMARKS OF SENATE MINORITY LEADER O'CONNELL

First, I want to welcome all of the Senators back and to welcome the newly elected members of the Senate. Mr. President, I believe citizens want an ethical relationship with their government and public officials, one that consists of trust, honesty, integrity and commitment. I believe that we have an obligation to leave this legislative institution stronger than it was when we came into office. Good luck during the session.

MOTION

SEN. CHRISTMANN MOVED that the remarks of Majority Leader Stenehjem and Minority Leader O'Connell be printed in the Journal, which motion prevailed.

MOTION

SEN. CHRISTMANN MOVED that the absent member be excused, which motion prevailed.

MOTION

SEN. CHRISTMANN MOVED that the Senate stand adjourned until 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 3, 2008, which motion prevailed.

The Senate stood adjourned pursuant to Senator Christmann's motion.

Fran A. Gronberg, Secretary