

Second Day of Legislative Organizational Session

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Sixty-second Legislative Assembly

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Bismarck, December 7, 2010

The Senate convened at 9:00 a.m., with President Pro Tempore Wardner presiding.

The prayer was offered by Pastor Rich Wyatt, Living Hope Church of the Nazarene, Bismarck.

The roll was called and all members were present, except for the vacancy in District 20.

A quorum was declared by the President Pro Tempore.

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 Pro Tempore Wardner presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE WARDNER 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-second 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 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.

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 MINORITY LEADER TAYLOR

Senators, both returning and newly elected, enter this chamber with a sense of right and wrong that has gotten us this far in life. Likely, our ethics have helped earn us the respect and support of our neighbors and constituents who have sent us here to represent them, and to represent North Dakota. With position often comes temptation, but we should not be tempted to abandon the code of conduct that has gotten us here. We innately know what's right and wrong, and in times of doubt, our gut instinct will show us the way. As we welcome and encourage our new members, and work together as colleagues on both sides of the aisle, take a moment to look at some of the mail you now get at home. Mail that used to just come to you in your name, now says "the honorable," in its title. Let us always behave in a way that has our mailman or woman nodding as they sort our mail, not shaking their head

and certainly not laughing. Good and ethical decisions will earn us the title we've been given. We are public servants. I have great faith that all of us will strive to conduct ourselves ethically--with fairness, compassion and integrity--in that service.

MOTION

SEN. CHRISTMANN MOVED that the remarks of Majority Leader Stenehjem and Minority Leader Taylor be printed in the journal, which motion prevailed.

MOTION

SEN. CHRISTMANN MOVED that the Senate stand adjourned until 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 8, 2010, which motion prevailed.

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

William R. Horton, Secretary