

Second Day of Legislative Organizational Session**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE****Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly**

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Bismarck, December 4, 2018

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

The prayer was offered by Pastor Bobby GreyEagle, Prairie Family Church, Bismarck.

The roll was called and all members were present.

A quorum was declared by the President.

MOTION

SEN. KLEIN 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 immediately upon completion of the House session, the Senate reconvene for remarks from the Senate Majority and Senate Minority leaders, which motion prevailed.

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

REMARKS BY SENATE MINORITY LEADER HECKAMAN

Greetings to you, Mr. President, returning senators, and our new colleagues.

Part of our organizational session is to look at laws and rules that govern public officials. The presentation on Ethics and the new Workplace Harassment Policy adopted by Legislative Management speak to issues that are integral to a responsible organization.

Voters spoke loud and clear in the 2018 election that ethics is a priority across the state. As elected officials we need to be educated as to what that Constitutional directive states. Some of you will be working in committee on the policy and procedures to implement this measure as we move forward this session.

We also can be assured that there is now a process with procedures to ensure a safe and secure workplace for us, our staff, and our visitors.

The trust placed in us by our constituents and their families bids us to serve all of North Dakota with distinction and honor. Fellow legislators also place their trust in us. One of the highest distinctions in the legislature is to be known as a trustworthy legislator - one with whom other legislators can look to for collaboration, who say what they do and do what they say. While written rules are easier to follow than unwritten rules, I know that all of us know what is the right way to act and the right way to react as we work for the people who elected us.

We may have different voices on issues, but we are one body dedicated to making North Dakota a better place to live, work, and raise a family. If the past is any indication of the future, I know that we will work together in this chamber, as we have always done, in a respectful manner dedicated to make North Dakota a better place.

Thank you, Mr. President.

REMARKS BY SENATE MAJORITY LEADER WARDNER

Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to say welcome. We are off to a good start. Things are going smoothly.

The talk this morning in the House was on Ethics and Harassment, particularly sexual harassment. During the interim, the committee leadership talked about harassment and having to double down on this. The leader in the House had been defeated and was not

present. I, as vice chairman, gave the report. We need to use common sense and treat people with respect. I was chastised because I did not think harassment was happening. Nothing had been reported to me.

The first time this happened to me, I was coaching and found out a month later so and so had broken training. It became a burr in my saddle. It needs to be reported and get nipped in the bud. As we move forward, I expect to be informed. We need to realize we need to move and not expect it to go away.

I am very proud of the Senate and North Dakota. Ninety-nine percent of the time members of the Senate have shown appropriate behavior. I appreciate we have great people and have set the bar high as we represent North Dakota.

During the interim, the committee stated it may be possible people do not know the procedure for reporting. We will develop a process so there is one in place. You can report to the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, the senator from Jamestown, or my administrative assistant. First of all, it is to be expected action will happen if something is reported. Second, there is a need to document the facts. We need this to move forward. And third, it will be kept confidential until the facts are on the table. There should be a review committee on the side to review these facts. And the leaders will have to bring the hammer down on the consequences.

We need to take this seriously. If you are not sure your behavior will be offensive, don't do it. This is not only true on the Capitol campus, but off the campus grounds.

Expect the best because you are the best. Get along, work hard, and debate hard, and the people of North Dakota will win.

Mr. President, thank you.

MOTION

SEN. KLEIN MOVED that the Senate stand adjourned until 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 5, 2018, which motion prevailed.

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

Shanda Morgan, Secretary