

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
May 29, 2007

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Health and Human Services met at 8:45 a.m. on May 29, 2007, in Room 1510 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing regarding a gubernatorial appointment. Senators present: Joel Johnson, Chairperson; Tim Gay, Vice Chairperson; Philip Erdman; Tom Hansen; Gwen Howard; Dave Pankonin; and Arnie Stuthman. Senators absent: None.

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Recorder malfunction) ...gubernatorial appointment of Clifford Carlson--and the reason I'm saying this kind of formally now because they do record that--and for the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. And Clifford, welcome, and would you like to tell us just a little bit about yourself... [CONFIRMATION]

CLIFFORD CARLSON: Sure. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...and why you're interested in this? [CONFIRMATION]

CLIFFORD CARLSON: Sure. Again, my name is Cliff Carlson. I go by Cliff, not Mr. Carlson, That's my father. I am a Lincoln resident. Married almost 10 years. Born and raised in Hastings. Educated at Nebraska Wesleyan and my wife went to law school at Drake and we came back to Lincoln to raise our family. Part of the reason for my interest in the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is my family. I have a son. His name is Heathcliff Carlson. He's two years old. He is profoundly deaf. He is a cochlear implant recipient, which is sometimes a topic of much conversation among the deaf community. I, myself, am hearing impaired, so I guess I view myself as a member of the deaf community being single-sided deaf and dealing with a number of hearing related issues in life, and I get the pleasure and honor to raise my son as a member of the deaf community and I hope that by being involved at the level with the commission that I can impact positive change in the state of Nebraska. And not just that, help move the really great programs that are in place, forward. I think so often people join a committee, whether it's at work or church or through the state, and feel like the first thing you want to do is come in and just (clapping sound), I've got my agenda. I want to make changes. There's a lot of really good things already in place that I think we want to help move forward and keep improving upon. So I guess that's my interest in having a gubernatorial appointment to the board. So... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. Well, let me tell you this. Well, let's go Senator Stuthman first. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Cliff, first of all, I admire you for wanting to be a person that can help with an organization with the commission in the fact that, you know, you're going to be going through a lot of the situations, you know, with the deaf and hard of hearing. And I really, really respect you because you can have

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a real impact on the direction of the commission, in my opinion, by having a day to day hands on experience with those people in that situation and I really respect you for that... [CONFIRMATION]

CLIFFORD CARLSON: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: ...because you want to be a person that is an asset to the individuals that have the problems with the deaf and hard of hearing. So thank you very much for... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: And this is Senator Howard. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Good morning. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator, this is Clifford Carlson and he's gone through his reasons for being on the Commission. And tell you this young man and that is we've gone through several people on that commission and I just thought everyone of them was outstanding. So I think you're going to have good company and a great commission to work with. [CONFIRMATION]

CLIFFORD CARLSON: Good. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Tim, question? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: No. I appreciate what you're saying about some of the existing programs that are out there and that's kind of the way I look at things, too. If they're already good let's fix them and make sure they're working. So I was glad to hear you say that and I'd encourage you to do that, because you're right. So many people come into it with an agenda and... [CONFIRMATION]

CLIFFORD CARLSON: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: Let's make what we have work. But thank you for spending your time doing this. Appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]

CLIFFORD CARLSON: Yeah. It's my pleasure. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. Any other questions? Well, the brevity doesn't express...we do mean what we're saying and I think you're going to have a great group and they do good work as well. So good luck to you and thanks for coming this morning. [CONFIRMATION]

CLIFFORD CARLSON: Thanks. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

CLIFFORD CARLSON: Have a good session. [CONFIRMATION]

Chairperson

Committee Clerk