

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

Judiciary Committee
May 15, 2007

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Judiciary met at 1:30 p.m. on May 15, 2007, in Room 1113 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing regarding a gubernatorial appointment. Senators present: Steve Lathrop, Vice Chairperson; Ernie Chambers; Vickie McDonald; Amanda McGill; Dwite Pedersen; Pete Pirsch; and DiAnna Schimek. Senators absent: Brad Ashford, Chairperson.

SENATOR LATHROP: Doctor, you're our only confirmation today, so if you'd like to come up and have a seat, I'll introduce my committee members. We're here today for the confirmation of Dr. Kimzey to the Community Corrections Council and let me introduce the members of the committee if I can. [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMZEY, JR.: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Dwite Pedersen from Elkhorn. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Doctor, pleased to meet you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Senator Amanda McGill, Senator Chambers, our senior member from the 11th District in Omaha; and Senator Schimek from Lincoln; and Senator Pirsch from Omaha; and Senator McDonald from St. Paul. There is no real format to this, so maybe what we'll do is give you a little opportunity to visit with us about your background and how it would serve us in your capacity on the Community Corrections Council. Just kind of open the floor. [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMZEY, JR.: Okay. I'll give you a little information, educationally. I have a undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Colorado and then a Master's and Doctorate from the California School of Professional Psychology in San Diego, and then I did my internship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and following that I worked in Omaha at St. Joseph's Hospital, Richard Young Hospital and then went to North Platte, in 1986, and have been there ever since. I worked with the Community Mental Health Center there as clinical director for their substance abuse and mental health programs, as well as community support programs until actually last fall, and am now in a private practice, also in North Platte. That's some basic educational information. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Good, good. And you've been nominated to serve on the Community Corrections Council. Can you tell us a little about your involvement in maybe the corrections system or your involvement in people that have trouble with the law? [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMZEY, JR.: Sure. Just through the nature of my experience in North

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Platte, when I first moved there I was actually the only psychologist between Kearney and Denver and so I had an opportunity to see a lot of different people and work with various community agencies, including law enforcement and corrections. And I've done that through the years at different levels--adolescents, adults, etcetera. And over the course of that time, I've actually started to do quite a bit of forensic work, as far as evaluations, assistance to the courts, and also preemployment determination for law enforcement in various capacities for towns in western Nebraska. So I've got some experience in those areas. And then seeing clients who have a variety of difficulties associated with their mental health, substance abuse, and legal problems as well. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Very good, very good. I'll open it up to questions from members of the committee. Do we have any questions? Senator Chambers. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Doctor, I read your resume. It's very impressive. I couldn't even put something like this together if every fact in it were true about me. So you show coherence, organization, and a grasp of your subject matter, which is yourself. But I have a question to ask you. On page 3, here's a...oh, let me tell you what this is. It's from a document labeled Office of the Governor Application for Executive Appointment, and on page 3 is this question: Have you ever been arrested or charged with a criminal offense? And you answered no. [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: Correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why not? (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: Why not? I've been very diligent at trying to use good judgment to stay out of trouble. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But not get caught. (Laughter) But at any rate, I had to think of something to ask you. That's all that I have though. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Very good. Senator Schimek. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Senator Chambers, I assumed you were going to ask what the Yellow Submarine Learning Center is on page 4. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Some things I don't mess with. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: It does describe it, so I wasn't really asking a question. I was

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just... [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: Okay. Well you know, that was southern California.
(Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yeah, okay. I guess I would ask a serious question, if I might.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Certainly. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Do you have a pretty clear concept of what you're getting into
here? [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: I believe I do. I spoke with people that have been
involved with the board, and I've received all the materials and have done a bit of
research as far as what the council has done when it started and what their focus is
and, hopefully, where they're going in the future or where they would like to go.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And you would be the only psychologist/psychiatrist on the
board? [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: I believe so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And then are there any medical doctors on that council, do you
know? [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: Not that I'm aware of. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: Um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Senator McDonald. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR McDONALD: Is it real that there is a shortage of people in your professional
background in the state of Nebraska to deal with community mental health issues?
[CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: It's quite real. And as I mentioned earlier, when I first
went to North Platte there was literally no one, and it has increased where there are a
few psychologists. And to brag if I might, my daughter has gone away to school and has
returned as a clinical psychologist, and she is now in practice with me. So it's nice to

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have someone homegrown return to the area to be able to work as well. But the numbers are nowhere near satisfactory to take care of the folks that need services. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR McDONALD: And are you seeing an increase in the number of people that need services or are we just identifying them to a different degree? [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: I think we're doing a couple of things. One is we're identifying more clearly. I think the other thing is that the stigma of mental health is starting to fade and people are viewing mental health or substance abuse as health problems, period. And it's not something to be ashamed of, to seek help or to get a checkup once in awhile, or if you're having a particular problem to get short-term care. So I think just as a society we're viewing it different and people are more willing to accept services. To add to that, in the rural communities...I've been in North Platte, but I also, in the past, have traveled to McCook, Imperial, Lexington, and Ogallala, and people in those communities too are more willing to seek services and are not afraid to do that. So I think that helps. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR McDONALD: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Any other questions? Yes, Senator Pedersen. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Thank you, Senator. Doctor, you no longer work for the region? Is that right? [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: No, I don't, not as an employee. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Then I read this right. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Any additional questions? Okay. Seeing none, that will close our hearing. I appreciate you coming down. [CONFIRMATION]

DR. LLOYD LEE KIMSEY, JR.: Thank you for the opportunity. I hope I can make a contribution that will be worthwhile to the council. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: I'm sure you can. [CONFIRMATION]

Chairperson

Committee Clerk

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