

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
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Business and Labor Committee
March 13, 2014

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Business and Labor met at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2014, in Room 2102 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on a gubernatorial appointment. Senators present: Steve Lathrop, Chairperson. Senators absent: Burke Harr, Vice Chairperson; Brad Ashford; Ernie Chambers; Tom Hansen; Amanda McGill; and Norm Wallman.

SENATOR LATHROP: Good afternoon...or good morning. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Good morning. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Usually when the Business and Labor Committee gets together it's afternoon. Good morning. We're here today for the purposes of doing a confirmation hearing for David...it's Partsch? [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Partsch. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: ...Partsch who's been nominated by the Governor to serve on the Commission of Industrial Relations. We've had a little trouble rounding up people, but we're in the process of doing that. I think we'll start just the same. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Very good. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: And our general process is to have the nominee visit with us a little bit about their background, why they want the job, and what they bring to it. And we'll start there. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Sure. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: See if anybody has any questions. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: (Exhibits 1 and 2) Thank you. I'm really excited about the opportunity to be considered for the position. Kind of brings me back to my roots. My first job out of law school was as legal counsel for the CIR. And I actually started there as a clerk when I was in law school. And I served there for two years. Actually, when they hired me it was understood that it would be on a two-year contract and wanted to treat it kind of like a judicial clerkship at the time. And so I was there, and I met some great people. I got to see a lot of good lawyering. It's kind of a specialized bar there where I got to meet and get to know, you know, John Corrigan and Mark McGuire and Jerry Pigsley and Bill Harding and those types of folks that are always there and really got to...I don't know what kind of impact I made on them, but they sure made an impact

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on me getting started and especially the lawyers that were serving as--they were called judges at the time, but the commissioners. Really got to develop good relationships with them and that's what I really enjoyed about the job. I also enjoyed the work. I think it's an important commission that does a very important job in the state to make sure, you know, that there isn't public labor strife that we see in some other states. So I'd really be honored to be considered for the position. And after the CIR there, actually one of the commissioners, Tom DeLay out of Norfolk hired me to join his firm in Norfolk. And that's how I got started in the private practice. And after my son was born there, my wife and I, both originally from Nebraska City, decided to move back home and I opened my own shop down there and eventually joined with a firm, Richard Hoch and Jeff Funke and proceeded from there. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Good. You know what, I know that you come down to Judiciary Committee all the time and testify on various bills. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Right. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: And I've always appreciated your testimony. You're eminently qualified. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: You're eminently qualified. And you know what, it's important that people who have the qualifications you do feel comfortable stepping forward. And not that there's a big risk in putting your name in, but there can be depending upon your qualifications. And yeah, you have a wonderful background, and we're looking forward to approving your nomination. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: I appreciate that. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Yeah, yeah. No questions. (Laughter) Is anyone here that wants to speak in support of the appointment? In opposition? Or in a neutral capacity? I don't see any. What we will do...we're just heading into a long weekend. And it's not unusual for some senators to cut out early. So I think what we'll do probably is Tuesday get together. We have two appointments, and we expect to approve both those nominations. And I expect that will be done Tuesday. But thanks for stepping forward and for your service. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Very good. I appreciate it. Do you know, then it would go to the floor? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: It does. We send a...the process is: We vote it out of committee. And we have a fellow named Carlson who was in here about two weeks ago from

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Norfolk. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Joel. Yes, I know Joel. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: Joel. You probably know him from your time up there. I expect both of them will be sent from this committee to the floor, and I expect that they'll be approved on the floor. I don't see any reason for any opposition. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: They bring that up fairly quickly after the nominations are made or do you know? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: It's entirely up to the Speaker in terms of scheduling. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: But because we only have like 17 days left... [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: It'll be pretty soon. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: ...it won't be very long. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Very good. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: I can promise you that much. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: I appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: But thanks. It's good to see you. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: And thanks for coming down. [CONFIRMATION]

DAVID PARTSCH: You bet. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LATHROP: That will close our hearing. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]