

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

Idaho House of Representatives - House Ethics on House Policy Committee Meeting

Witness: Speaker Scott Bedke

Date and Time: April 14, 2021, 4:00 p.m. (MST)

Location: Idaho Attorney General's Office Conference Room

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Gannon: Hey do I get to ask us that questions next? [Laughter.]

Dixon: You stay quite.

Crane: It's recording.

Dixon: We are recording. We've taken testimony from four other people today and about an incident that occurred with a chief clerk and a, or a deputy clerk and that she brought that to your attention. And our question was what happened after that with you and the person in question, the Representative that you, she had the incident with because um, the Chief Clerk did not know what, what that result was. So we were hoping you could shed some light on maybe what action you might have taken that point.

Speaker: Well I took no direct action with the Representative. I uh, as per the respectful workplace policy that we have in the building, of the, you know, Representative von Ehlinger approached Erica McGinnis, anyway. And the obviously and she's married. And she has uh, you know kids, and anyway, and so she uh, alright now this is what I hearing. So [inaudible] was approached. She went up the chain as per the Respectful Workplace Policy to her supervisor Carrie, who then brought it, the issue to me. And I said is the issue handled? And she that uh, that, that she was, that Kelly handled it and left no, you know, left no doubt that she was not interested, ect. It was right at the very first of the session. And uh, and I said, I said well let's, let's watch if it, if it's reoccurs or if there's anything happens after this. And I said please let me know. And then, then as far as I knew that issue was closed. And uh, you know we may. And I just wrote it off at that point. You know, having other things to do.

Dixon: Just a couple. Um, is there any questions, except for Representative [inaudible] cause he's [inaudible].

Hayes: Mr. Chairman if I may?

Dixon: Yes Leslie.

Hayes: Did Representative Blacksma ever share any concerns about her conversation she had with an unidentified individual with you?

Speaker: Um, well, now I was aware that there were other instances with the Representative, but I didn't learn it back through those channels. This place uh, is small and gossipy and uh, so I did learn that, that the, that the instant with the Deputy, the Journal Clerk Kelly was not the only time it happened. But I, anyway so there's that.

Hayes: But no direct reports?

Speaker: When this, when we all became part of the complaint then we did compare notes, you might say. After, but, but I, you know you kind don't want these types of things to develop into anything and um, and I understood from other sources that the, that the lobbyist in question was very direct and uh, so assumed that, that was a closed instance too. But now here we are.

Dixon: Representative Crane.

Crane: Mr. Speaker would it be safe to say in the instance with Ms. McGinnis and the instance that occurred later with, uh Representative Blanksma, in both cases you let a supervisor or someone in a leadership capacity other than yourself handle those complaints?

Speaker: Well, I am the, I am at the top of the complaint chain I guess, so I mean I, I uh, I know that it was uncomfortable in the aftermath when um, von Enlinger went upstairs and, and uh you know, I don't know what verb you want to use here, but they, confront maybe a little hard, but uh, certainly they had a discussion that, that made her uncomfortable. I know that.

Crane: Follow-up Mr. Chairman?

Dixon: Go ahead.

Crane: But it would be safe to say that you felt like in both instances those with leadership capacity had handled those situations?

Speaker: Well, yes and there was no and it didn't go anywhere farther. And then of course uh, the, you know then [REDACTED] went to Kim, who went to, who immediately me, and I immediately came right to this room right here. And said this is happening and, and you know, walk us through how best to handle it. And, and so that's how we did it.

Hayes: Mr. Chairman may – I have one more follow-up.

Dixon: Yes.

Hayes: Mr. Speaker when you were referring that you found out about the incident with the lobbyist, was that after [REDACTED] complaint or was it contemporaneous with when those conversations occurred?

Speaker: It was all about the same time I think. I don't know when, I don't recall exactly.

Hayes: So just to clarify right around when [REDACTED] complaint came in is when people started sharing other concerns that had been brought, not necessarily you attention previously.

Speaker: I may have had a conversation that, that's the said I had this conversation with von Ehlinger what I mean and, and that was odd, it was weird, it was uncomfortable. That type of thing and uh, I think I'm sure it was all of that. And but, as to when that happened, you know we've done a lot, I don't, the whole thing is kind of a blur. It seemed like it was in, towards the first of the session, anyway, so. But I, it didn't, it didn't trigger me, oh I better write that down or oh I better run downstairs to the AG's office to document this. Now there, you know as I do. I mean if this, the minute I get anything like this is the minute I get to the AG to, to unburden myself of that, to make sure that, that I'm never culpable of anything or miss, or not using the, our process properly. The faster I do it the safer I am and I love to stay safe.

Dixon: Any other questions? Leslie?

Hayes: Nope. That was all I had. Thank you.

Dixon: Great. Thank you sir. Appreciate you.