

## TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

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

Witness: Carrie Maulin

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Dixon: Thank you for joining us and taking the time (inaudible). For being here to answer some questions. And that I, you're familiar with all of the Representatives and everybody else. Mr. Myers. Great. So he's acting as counsel for the Committee just so there's no conflicts with the Attorney General's Office in certain things going on. So we heard there's allegations between the Representative in question and someone in your office. The staff that works for you and we would like you, would appreciate it if you could explain what happened there from your perspective.

Maulin: Sure. And, and I'm not that allegations is the proper word, um.

Dixon: Okay. Interaction that caused some concern maybe.

Maulin: Right, right. Yes. I think probably a better way of phrasing it. Um, Erica McGinnis who's in my office is my journal clerk. And she's new to the upstairs floor. She's been previously down in the, in the wings as a secretary. And um, during her first few days working in the Clerk's office she, she got to know a lot of people on the floor. New people, new Legislators, etc. And um, struck up a conversation with Representative von Ehlinger at one point where they discussed running. They both are joggers or whatever. And um, and so at one point he came up to her after they'd had a discussion maybe a previous day. I don't know exactly the, how much before that was, and asked her if she would like to go on a run with him and then go out to, I don't know if it was dinner or if it was lunch, but it basically it was, he asked her on a date. And she was very surprised. I think it just really caught her off guard because she's married and um, and doesn't feel that she presents herself as available. And so she was, she said she was so surprised that she, was like oh, okay. And then she came and talked to me about it. She came and sat down in my office and said I, you know I have a concern about this. I have a problem that I need to talk to you about. And, and I'm a reporting person for the respectful workplace. So I sort of took it as that was my role in this situation. And um, had her describe the situation that she felt was uncomfortable and she did not really know how she should probably handle this because obviously she's married and she was unsolicited this invitation. And so we sort of talked it through and talked to

her about how she wanted to handle it. Did she want to make a, you know make it a complaint. Did she want to try to handle it just herself. Did she want me to help her handle the situation? You know so we sort of talked through a couple of different scenarios. One of the major concerns that I had about this situation is the power dynamic from the standpoint of Representative von Ehlinger being a Representative, and Erica being staff. You know that there's this, there's disparate level of authority and we train all of our secretaries to discuss, you know to Representatives Smith, Representative Jones, um. And so we, we have this structure that Representatives are one pot and staff is another pot. You know. And um, and so she I talked it through and she um, we decided that it would probably be a good idea for her to go ahead and email him that she was, you know she thanked him for the invitation and that she was uncomfortable, but that she was married. And um, and so she crafted her email. I read it. She was really concerned about talking to him face to face. She really didn't want to do that. She didn't want that to be a part of, of what she had to do. And so we thought about that an email would be a good choice. And so she did email him. Um, I read the email before she sent it and it was just very polite direct email which is, you know, which I actually brought. And then his reply, his reply back. And that was really, pretty much the end of it. I did make a mention to the Speaker about it because I felt that if she was concerned enough about it, then I needed to be concerned about it enough to make the Speaker aware of the fact that this was a situation that um, that had sort of unfolded between a Representative and staff. So.

Dixon: Any questions? Yes. Representative Gannon.

Gannon: When did this take place?

Maulin: Well she sent the email on January 22<sup>nd</sup> that was Friday. That was a Friday. So I think it maybe, maybe was a day or two before that. You know. It happened very quickly. It was a short time frame.

Unknown Male: So first part of session?

Maulin: Yes and it was, the part that I thought was actually sort of funny in an ironic sense was that the new members had really just had their Respectful Workplace Training. Just in short order, just before that, so. So it was just a little bit of an ironic situation at that point.

Dixon: Mr. Myers.

Myers. Carrie does Erica routinely wear a wedding band?

Maulin: Um. She does not. She does not. It's a personal choice on her part.

Myers.                    Alright.

Maulin:                 But I would also say she's not overly, you know I wouldn't term her to be, to appear to be available or she does not conduct herself in such a way that she would appear to be available. Um so.

Dixon:                 Representative Gannon:

Gannon:                So was any action taken at all by anybody? Did anybody, anybody in authority confront Representative, say hey, we're just, we're just not doing this.

Maulin:                 I do believe that the Speaker may have spoken to him, but I'm only, that is my assumption. That is not a fact.

Dixon:                 Yeah. We'd love to have those emails.

Maulin:                 I just made two copies of it. Yeah. So.

Kane:                    If you need more copies, I can get those for you.

Dixon:                 Is there any other questions? Ms. Maulin. Thank you Carrie. Appreciate you sharing that.

Maulin:                 Sure.