

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

Health and Human Services Committee
April 06, 2011

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Health and Human Services met at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2011, in Room 1510 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on a gubernatorial appointment. Senators present: Kathy Campbell, Chairperson; Mike Gloor, Vice Chairperson; Dave Bloomfield; Tanya Cook; Gwen Howard; Bob Krist; and Norm Wallman. Senators absent: None.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: (Recorder malfunction)...Committee and this afternoon we are pleased to have a Gubernatorial Appointment in Carol Lomicky. Carol, do you want to come forward? Carol is nominated for the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Please sit down and welcome.

CAROL LOMICKY: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I know it's an imposing chair, kind of swallows you up; but in any case, well welcome. We're glad you're here. Tell us a little bit about how you came to be an appointee for the commission. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: I am a colleague of Doctor Jan Moore at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. And Doctor Moore is in the communication disorders department there, and I had been working with her for the past year since I had a cochlear implant. And we became friends; and she e-mailed me what would have been a couple of months ago and said there's a vacancy on the commission, would you like to serve? And I just jumped at it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh my gosh. So before you had the implant, could you hear? [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Yes, I functioned for quite awhile on one ear, and then I lost my hearing in my good ear rather abruptly about a year ago and became a candidate then for a cochlear implant and had one. And I'm very blessed to have had this technology available to me because I can hear; not like everybody else hears, but I can, indeed, hear. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And that's good. Questions from the senators for...any questions? Yes, Senator Krist. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you. Obviously, you will bring a perspective that transcends or transitions from both the hearing community and the deaf community. What do you think your best contribution or your biggest contribution will be? [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Well, I think perhaps I might lend some diversity to the commission.

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I attended my first meeting a couple of weeks ago; and it was very interesting to me the range of hearing disorders, the range of communication styles from signing: some signing who also speak; some people who do not sign at all or sign solely; others who are just functioning on...like I do who do not sign. It's my understanding that perhaps the majority of the board has been deaf for a long, long time or hard of hearing for a long, long time; and I think as a...I think they call me a new or recent deaf and hard of hearing person. I think I could perhaps bring a perspective to the board that isn't there currently. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Excellent. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Other questions from the senators? Professor, you have a long and distinguished list of honors and articles. I mean, it's quite interesting to read your resume and all that you have published and presentations; but I noticed that...did you spend some time in Oxford? [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: I did. I did. When was that? Five or six years ago. It was a by invitation. I have, for years, at UNK taught the media law class; and they had what they referred to as round tables. And they set these up according to different topics and this particular one was on first amendment issues and specifically relating to the Patriot Act because it had just been signed into law previously. And so because I had done some research in first amendment issues I was invited to that. And it was wonderful; it is an incredible university. If any of you have a chance to go, I highly recommend it. It's beautiful. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well UNK is very lucky to have your expertise and your commitment not only to the area for the commission, but certainly a great number of interests that you have brought to the university there. That's terrific. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Former Senator Christensen, I'm sure, is lucky to have you, let's put it that way. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Well, thank you. There's very many talented and gifted people at UNK. We get sort of overshadowed by UNL; if I can say that, but yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: There are several of us that keep trying to talk Chancellor Christensen and other people into having a masters of social work at UNK. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: (Laughter) Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

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CAROL LOMICKY: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Because we feel that that would greatly help the workforce. And so having people such as yourself who are serving on state commissions is helpful to us to gain more information, so. Other questions that the senators have? Senator Krist. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Just a comment. Don't discount running for the Legislature in the future with your background. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Um, thank you. (Laughter) You will have to excuse me, there is an incredible echo in this room. And so if I'm kind of leaning forward, it just helps me hear you a little bit better. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh no, no, that's fine. And we should speak up, because we have a tendency...we think with the microphones that we can sort of mumble, but. Any other questions from the senators? We are so pleased to have you step forward. We're lucky that citizens step forward to say we're going to serve on state boards, and we commend you for your willingness. And you will bring, as Senator Krist said, a very unique perspective that we have not seen on the commission. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Excellent. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So we wish you the best and thank you for coming. I know it is a short time; but we really like to meet the candidates if possible, and also for you to feel comfortable contacting any one of us if you have ideas or information that you think we need to have. And with your background, there would be a lot of topics that you can send us information. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Thank you. I hope so, yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So have a safe trip back to Kearney. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: And were there any other questions? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

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CAROL LOMICKY: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Well thank you. Bye, bye. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. Any...I need a motion for the committee to go into...
[CONFIRMATION]