

February 23, 1990

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, I would be more than remiss if I didn't echo and add to what Senator Wesely has said. I developed a tremendous and profound respect for Dennis Carlson as a result of working with him on the problems confronting young children in foster care. Dennis Carlson is a man of intelligence, impeccable honesty, unquestioned integrity, and moral courage. This man helped in bringing forth the types of problems that most people would rather look the other way on. When one has served as capably and competently as Mr. Carlson has served, it seems to me that if the Governor had an intention not to reappoint him because she was wondering whether he wanted to be reappointed, it wouldn't have taken more than a courtesy phone call to ask him, did he choose to be reappointed or not. If there was any question, the Governor should have made the inquiry. Otherwise, the appointment ought to have been made and then he could have stated that he had no interest in it. But I think it was clear to everybody in the state who has followed the Franklin situation that Dennis Carlson should have stayed on that board, should have stayed on that board. There is a man in Congress right now named Peter Hoagland who was given information about Franklin early on from one of the employees about the improper activities with the money, with credit cards, and other things that would have given...that raised, in fact, a red flag. When Peter Hoagland came to Omaha with a Congressional subcommittee looking into Franklin, he, at no time, informed that subcommittee that he had information a good amount of time prior to the fall of Franklin. He did not want to discuss what I call the very peculiar relationship between former publisher of the World-Herald, Harold Andersen, and Larry King, and for those reporters who think I make these comments only on the floor because I have immunity, that is insane because I have said these things before, I have given information about it to the newspapers, but it was always strange to me why an old conservative white "Repelican" businessman would take up a relationship with a young black man not particularly educated, not moving in his social circles, and develop this kind of relationship. The explanation of it has eluded everybody, has eluded everybody, but Mr. Andersen wound up retiring from the World-Herald on schedule. We can see from the way Bob Devaney and other individuals have had their retirement date pushed back when they have done good service, the same could have happened with Harold Andersen, if he was as great a fellow as the World-Herald and others indicated he was but he had to get out of the way. Frank Gunter, the Director of Corrections, was