

February 23, 1990

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, and thank you, Senator Morrissey. I can't talk to the Carlson issue because I don't know the gentleman, and I am certainly not going to get involved in the floor debate on the Franklin issue, but I would like to share with you a little bit of someone that is caught up in this process that has no voice on the floor, I guess, and that is Alice Bartels, the appointee that is under question this morning by default, by default of being the appointee. I would guess and I would suggest to you that perhaps the choice wasn't altogether that bad, irregardless of the qualifications of the previous member. If you knew Mrs. Bartels as I do, that you would find that while the appearance on the outside is one of a kind and gentle person.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I think that her performance given her care and concern for disadvantaged people may well be to the advantage of the policies of the Foster Care Review Board, and I would suggest that you consider that perhaps Mrs. Bartels is not a totally unqualified person for this position, and that we are not going to affect in any great degree, as Senator Crosby mentioned, the Governor's selection process. Thank you for your consideration.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please, followed by Senator Crosby.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, and members, when Mr. Carlson appeared before the Executive Board the first time I believe that he met with us, along with Mr. Burrell Williams, Carol Stitt, they presented some of the evidence, which we reviewed. I asked him a question. I said do you believe that what you are pointing out to us is an isolated incidence? And it was rather strange, all...both of the other members of the other board and Mr. Carlson all shook their heads negatively without looking at each other, and then Mr. Carlson said it is only the tip of the iceberg. Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that he actually made an understatement. I very rarely disagree with the sage of the Legislature, Senator Coordsen, and I don't really disagree with him now. I am sure that the lady who has been appointed is a kind and gentle person, and there is a time for kindness and gentleness when dealing with children, but there is also a time for firmness, experience, wisdom and sometimes I guess downright dictatorship especially when government agencies are involved,