

January 27, 1992

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...this Legislature not confirm the other candidates who did receive necessary support in the committee because of one individual which did not receive the necessary votes. I think the bulk of Senator Morrissey's comments that I heard when I was coming up to the floor was there is a double standard here about conflict of interest or the objectivity that certain individuals bring to any council, in particular the DEC council and I guess that's a decision we all have to make individually, but I feel comfortable that the individuals we are about to confirm are people who can do a good job on the council and I would recommend their confirmation this morning.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I don't want to take up a lot of time either, but there is a point that has to be made. Indeed, there are some people on the Environmental Control Council that do a wonderful job. One of those, and they are very dedicated. It takes a lot of time, a lot of work to understand these complicated issues. One of those is Fred Hlava. I worked with him all summer on the solid waste issue. Fred is great. He takes the time that is needed to study and understand these complicated subjects. Dr. Janet Bernard-Stevens has only missed one meeting in her tenure on the council and that was because, I understand, that she was pregnant and I probably don't blame her for that. And traditionally the person representing the medical community has not been, not had good attendance because doctors are just pretty darned busy too and it takes a lot of time. And again, like I said, Nancy Andrews, very well qualified, but quite honestly, folks, there is some people on the council, and I had a bill and I want to let you...make sure you all understand this, I had a bill last year to disband the council and reorganize it and get it down to six people and not have them specifically recommended in the statute to represent the petroleum industry and other things the way it reads in statutes. So there were some folks who came up from the council and again, testified against my bill of course, and again I asked them all about the conflict, the conflict of interest and quite honestly, they all, just bingo, said no problem. If it's between my billfold and the citizens of the State of Nebraska, boy, I'm going for the citizens every time without even blinking, without even blinking. And quite honestly some of the people on the council, the Environmental Control Council, have