

ARLON LINDNER ETHICS COMMITTEE STATEMENT

I am a Christian. I, like many Christians, believe that God has given us the Bible as our guide for living. The Bible teaches me that homosexual activity is wrong, sinful, and harmful. In deciding, as a legislator, whether to promote or oppose or maintain any given legislation, teachings of the Bible weigh heavily upon my decision. Legislation which would violate any significant religious belief, while showing few benefits or while showing benefits that could be accomplished in another fashion, will always be vigorously opposed by myself, regardless of the personal consequences.

I have now reviewed the complaint and the official tape of my comments from the floor of the House. I was especially saddened to see that my remarks on the House floor were edited so as to exclude comments I made declaring my knowledge of the holocaust and my specific reference to "Jewish suffering and death". As a Christian, who believes the Bible is true, there has always been a special place in my heart and life for God's words about the Jewish people from Genesis 12:3, "And I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee." Here is what this means in my life. If the Jew is my friend, I will be his friend. If the Jew is not my friend, I will be his friend. If the Jew is my enemy, I will be his friend. If the Jew does me good, I will be his friend. If the Jew does me harm, I will be his friend. If the Jew helps me politically, I will be his friend. If the Jew opposes me politically, I will be his friend. If the Jew should file false charges against me and seek to harm me, I shall be his friend. Throughout history, to this day, the Jew has suffered great harm and betrayal at the hands of others, many times from those he thought were friends. I believe, at the end of it all, the only real friend of the Jew will be the Christian, who believes the Bible is true. The Jew shall always be my friend and thus the charge that I am anti-Semitic in addition to being false, is especially hurtful.

The charge of black racism is so baseless that I could not possibly know how to address the issue.

I close by quoting the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran Pastor in Germany who was killed by the Nazis for his beliefs and his speech:

Contempt for man and idolization of man are close neighbors. But the good man too, no less than the wicked, succumbs to the same temptation to be a despiser of mankind if he sees through all this and withdraws in disgust, leaving his fellow-men to their own devices, and if he prefers to mind his own business rather than debase himself in public life. Of course his contempt for mankind is more respectable and upright, but it is also more barren and ineffectual. . . .

But there is also an honestly intended philanthropism which amounts to the same thing as contempt for mankind. It consists in judging the man according to his latent values, according to his underlying soundness reasonableness and goodness. . . . With forced indulgence evil is interpreted as good. Baseness is overlooked and the reprehensible is excused. For one reason or another one is afraid to give a clear "no" for an answer, and one ends up by acquiescing in everything.¹

Once again I am brought before this panel. Once again, as a Christian, I hold no bitterness.

030320ka/16

JAMES R. ANDERSON OPENING STATEMENT

First, a couple of housekeeping matters. I want to remind everyone that the burden of proof here is upon the complainants. What this means is that the obligation is not upon Representative Lindner to disprove anything - the burden is upon the complainants to show what occurred and that it rises to the level of an ethical violation. This is probably difficult under the best of circumstances, but let me show you a chart that you first saw a couple of years ago, when Representative Entenza filed his first ethics complaint against Representative Lindner. On this chart, we learn that the House finds ethics violations for serious matters - never speech. Down through the ages, from King John, who was forced to sign the Magna Carta, to the present, in the English speaking world and beyond, there have always been those who best knew what other free people should say and think - until now, at least, such efforts have always failed, and may it ever be so.

As to this hearing, I requested eight subpoenas - I desired to examine the eight individuals who brought this complaint against Arlon. Subpoenas for a party to an action are routinely granted. I'm not aware of such a request ever being denied anywhere. In fact, I'm not aware of anyone ever even making such an argument prior to this. Yet, this request was denied on a straight party line vote. Remember that old joke out of Russia? Don't bother bringing witnesses - we supply the witnesses. I now see why Rep. Entenza was vigorously demagoging for an open hearing when his case was so weak. He desired what he has now received - an open hearing without witnesses. With this action, the Democrats on this committee have now set the precedent that anyone may file a "hit and run" ethics complaint against a member of the House, and go into hiding, thus tainting the name of his victim, never to be called upon to explain. For over 200 years in this country, an accused has had the right to confront his accuser. Now, in Minnesota, at least before this ethics committee when a Republican is in the dock, this right stands repealed. Thus, in this unusual case, we have the accused denied his constitutional right to confront his accuser while foregoing his constitutional right to remain silent. When a man is not allowed to confront his accuser, his defense becomes rather difficult. Clearing his name becomes almost impossible.

But, even without witnesses, let me now quickly proceed to demonstrate the absolute falsity and hypocrisy of the charges brought against Rep. Lindner, as best I can in the time allowed. As we do so, please contrast the conduct of Rep. Lindner with that of his accusers.

I.

Let me direct you to page 74 of your materials (quote Entenza). Now, let me show you from the official House video tape of the actual remarks, the truth of the matter. By the way, please turn to your complaint, page 8, House floor transcript, line 4 - note the word "stating" - please circle the word. Note from the tape that the word is actually "studying." Note the implications of this error and its correction. More importantly, let me now show you that the ethics complaint itself is a "cut and paste", job, with someone (guess who?) deleting the opening comments of Rep. Lindner, which comments basically prove that the whole charge of denying the holocaust is false. Do you remember "The Big Lie" tactics used by the Nazis. Was it not that they would repeatedly blast out false charges and then, by the time the truth was put forth, no one would listen? Note that whoever skillfully deleted Rep. Lindner's opening words put no . . . in the transcript to show a deletion. Note that the page 113 deleted words should

have been inserted on the first page of the House floor transcript attached to your complaint just after the word Lindner. Now, join me please as we review this evidence you have not yet received. (show tape) You may follow the tape at page 113 of your materials. As everyone can now see, Arlon's name was tainted from one end of this state to the other with the most hateful of lies. Representative Lindner never denied the holocaust. You know from what Arlon said on the House floor and from what he has just said now that Arlon is not the enemy of the Jew - Arlon is the friend of the Jew, as will ever be so. There appear to be some, though, who would like to make Arlon the enemy of the Jew. I want you to know, those efforts have failed. This statement was hurtful and harmful in the extreme. Now I direct your attention to pages 75-76 of your materials. We attempted twice, with press meetings and releases to correct the lie. Publication was given to neither. As a last resort, we sent the March 27, 2003 letter to the publisher of the Star Tribune. The Star Tribune response is to be found at page 77 of your materials. Oops, there is no page 77. Yes, the Star Tribune did not even bother to respond. Does this appear to be the action of a news source dedicated to truth? Do you think that Rep Entenza is really concerned about the dignity or honor of the House?

II.

As I sat in the House gallery on the evening of March 31, listening to debate on the woman's right to know bill, I watched as Rep. Kahn rose and gave an eloquent speech of how the truth is important to her and as a child she was taught to tell the truth, etc., etc., etc. With this in mind, note that it was Rep. Kahn who interjected herself in the March 10 proceedings (see page 11 of the complaint) with the comment "Just a correction, Rep. Boudreau, actually the first law the Nazis passed was the repeal of legalized abortion.". On page 90 and 110 of your materials, you can see that this was not the first law passed by the Nazis. Beyond this little technicality, I further point out the not so technical matter that when Hitler came to power, abortion was still illegal, so the Nazis did not, as stated "passed the repeal of legalized abortion.". Pages 101-102. And, moving even beyond this, although the Nazis did increase the penalties for abortion, they enforced the penalties basically as to their master race (to put it bluntly, they were after cannon fodder, not pro-life principals) while allowing abortion on races they regarded as inferior, such as Jews, Poles, etc. and even to the extent of the state mandating or performing the abortions. Pages 92, 94, 95, 110-112. The Nazis of course realized that abortion was about killing, not choice, and applied abortion policy merely as a tool of their wicked regime. The Nazis were thus not the first to repeal legalized abortion. They were rather the exact opposite - the first to make abortion legal, page 102. I think that Rep. Boudreau deserves an apology. I wonder if it will be forthcoming. We now know that liberals do not like homosexuals equated with Nazis. We know that liberals, supposedly, do not like untruths from the House floor. Do you think that any ethics complaint will be forthcoming against Rep. Kahn for apparently attempting to equate proliferers with Nazis? I think we all know the answer to that question, do we not?

III.

In addition to the now proven falsehood of Rep. Lindner denying the holocaust ever occurred, the liberals have repeatedly also used this ethics complaint to declare that Rep. Lindner denies that homosexuals were persecuted by the Nazis. The most recent example of this misinformation is found on page three, complainant's "Motion to Focus Proceedings", found on page 81 of your materials, second line from the bottom stating that Rep. Lindner denied "that gays were persecuted by the Nazis".. This Motion was given to this committee by another two of Rep. Lindner's accusers, Rep. Ellison and

Rep. Latz. But, when we examine the actual statements of Rep. Lindner, we learn something quite different. First, I refer to page three of the complaint wherein Rep. Lindner is quoted in the March 7, 2003 Minneapolis Star Tribune as saying, "Its' just been recently that anyone's come out with this idea that homosexuals were persecuted to this extent". As I am certain that everyone on this panel can understand, there is quite a large difference between saying that homosexuals were not persecuted at all and saying that they were not persecuted "to this extent". Also, on page three of the complaint, in the remarks on the floor of the Minnesota House from March 10, 2003, Rep. Lindner is quoted as stating, "Its just been within the recent two or three years that its been brought forward that homosexuals also suffered like that.". It changes the meaning of the sentence, you see, when the words "like that" are deleted. As you can see, Rep. Lindner has consistently been questioning the extent of homosexual persecution, not whether they were persecuted. The one conflicting bit of evidence is Rep. Lindner being quoted in the March 11, 2003 Star Tribune (see page 4 of complaint) as stating "I'm not convinced that they were persecuted". Yet, as I think we have just demonstrated, the Star Tribune is really not credible on this issue. This statement is contrary to the other two statements of Rep. Lindner. Furthermore, even if the Star Tribune somehow got it right, saying one is not convinced of something is a much different matter than denying it.

Now, as to Rep. Clark, let me demonstrate that when Rep. Clark has one finger pointing forward at Rep. Lindner, she has three fingers pointing back at herself. Let me direct you to Rep. Clark's comments, found on page nine of the complaint:

And I do want to address the comments that Rep. Lindner made. Rep. Lindner, when you said that it has only been two or three years that it has been known that gays and lesbians were victims of the holocaust, you're displaying a great lack of knowledge. I brought with me today a document that was shared at the press conference earlier today. It says 10 million people were murdered in the Nazis death camps. I will have this made smaller if it will be useful to members of the body here. This is 101 education that I learned more than 30 years ago. But, you know that, I know that not everybody knows it. So I'm happy to share it. I probably know it because I am an open lesbian, and I knew about my brothers and sisters in the millions who were slaughtered in those death camps.

The key word here is millions with an s. This means that at least two million. Thus, we have Rep. Clark claiming at least two million homosexuals deaths in the death camps of the holocaust and Rep. Lindner, saying it was less. Which is closer to the truth? Here, let me refer you to the material produced at pages 85-90, which, as you can see, comes from the internet site of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This institution, I believe, is generally regarded as America's most authoritative source of information on the holocaust. I now refer you to page 87-88 of your materials. Here it is clearly stated that between 1933 and 1945, the years of Nazi rule in Germany, "between 5,000 and 15,000 homosexuals" were interned in concentration camps. Furthermore, of this number, we do not know the number who died as opposed to the number who were eventually freed. In this regard, I refer you to the last sentence of the article which states, "there are no known statistics for the number of homosexuals who died in the camps.". Page 89. Lastly we learn that "Lesbians weregenerally not targeted for persecution.". Page 86. Thus, it is quite clear that any fair minded person will conclude that it is Rep. Clark, the accuser, who is more deserving of scrutiny then Rep. Lindner, the accused. If there were any shame or decency to these eight accusers, they would stand up right now and extend their apology to Rep. Lindner.

IV.

As to the AIDS in Africa issue, there is really nothing to address other than to point out that the liberals point out the AIDS problem in Africa all the time. Pages 11 - 23.

In summary, today's liberal will give the most radical form of free speech to every harmful and destabilizing group in the country - to every group, that is, except the Christian who is acting upon Bible teaching. Today's liberal would extend freedom of religion to all - to all, that is, except the Christian. Today's liberal will give the accused the right to confront his accuser, and extend this right even to the most dangerous and despicable of individuals, including the terrorist who would destroy our country - but he will not give this right to the accused Christian. Thus, as our country becomes more militarily powerful than any prior nation on earth, and as we accumulate the riches of Croesus, we simultaneously take on the morality of Sodom and Gomorrah. Thus, it sadly appears, as history tells us, we shall become but one more nation that has accumulated great power and riches, as we are destroyed from within by our corruption and immorality. Liberals, before it is too late, I pray that you would see the error of your dead end philosophy. I know in your misguided way you want to do good. But, you will not create racial healing by sowing racial strife. You will not help hurting people by legislating against God. You will destroy this great House of public debate if you do not stop cannibalizing one another. For over 200 years in this greatest land on earth, America, truth has been separated from error at the crucible of public debate. May it ever be so!

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