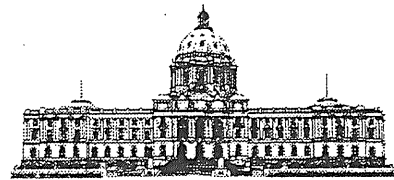


President of the Senate
JAMES METZEN
Senate District 39
322 State Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Phone: (651) 296-4370
And
312 Deerwood Court
South St. Paul, MN 55075
(651) 451-0174



Senate

State of Minnesota

Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct

January 4, 2006

The Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct met in executive session today to consider a complaint filed by Senator Steve Dille against registered lobbyists for Land Stewardship Project. The Subcommittee dismissed the complaint for failure to establish probable cause.



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Legislative Coordinating Commission – LCC Salary & Budget Review Subcommittee –
Legislative Audit Commission

MINNESOTA SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ETHICAL CONDUCT

CONDUCT
OF
SENATOR DEAN E. JOHNSON

FINAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

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dated January 19, 2006
13. Statement marked Minnesota Public Radio
dated March 17, 2006
14. Statement by Chief Justice Russell Anderson
no date provided
15. Star Tribune Article (partial), “Embellishments”
dated March 21, 2006

A resolution relating to ethical conduct; conduct of Senator Dean Elton Johnson.

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct of the Committee on Rules and Administration, in response to a complaint submitted by Senators Mike McGinn, Claire Robling, Dick Day, Warren Limmer, Geoff Michel, and Pat Pariseau, dated March 22, 2006, met on March 24, 2006, to consider whether the conduct of Senator Dean Elton Johnson in making statements concerning conversations he had with one or more members of the Minnesota Supreme Court concerning whether the Court was likely to find that the Minnesota statutes that prohibit and refuse to recognize a marriage between persons of the same sex were unconstitutional, constituted improper conduct within the meaning of Senate Rule 56.3; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct, meeting in executive session, has found that the complaint states facts that, if true, constitute probable cause to believe that the conduct of Senator Johnson violated Senate Rule 56.3; and

WHEREAS, Senator Johnson does not admit that the complaint states probable cause and denies that his conduct violated Senate Rule 56.3; and

WHEREAS, Senator Johnson has agreed to apologize on the floor of the Senate on Monday, March 27, 2006, and by a letter delivered to the persons who convened the meeting in Spicer, Minnesota, in January 2006 for his statements made at that meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct:

1. Senator Dean Elton Johnson shall make a public apology on the floor of the Senate to the Senate and his constituents.
2. Senator Johnson must deliver a written apology to the persons who convened the January 2006 meeting in Spicer, Minnesota.
3. Upon delivery of the two apologies, the complaint be dismissed.

Senate Majority Leader Dean E. Johnson apology to Minnesota Senate and his District 13 constituents.

Monday, March 27, 2006

Colleagues, I apologize to you for the inaccurate statement which I made in a meeting with pastors in January.

I have at no time received any commitments regarding potential judicial decisions from any member of the Minnesota Supreme Court. I have always had high regard for the judiciary.

I regret the statement I made, I have apologized outside this forum earlier, and today I apologize to this body, my constituents, and the people of Minnesota.

I have learned from this experience and I suspect the rest of us have as well.

This has been a difficult experience; I appreciate the support of my caucus, my constituents and my friends, and I look forward to working with all members to address the important public policy issues which remain on our agenda for this session.

Thank you.

Bill Miller, Lay Pastor
Peace Lutheran Church
MN Highway 9 & CR 40
New London, MN 56273

March 27, 2006

Dear Pastor Miller,

I want to apologize to you and those who attended the January 19, 2006 New London-Spicer meeting with me in Spicer during which I made a remark which was taped and which was not correct. I have expressed my regrets in an apology to my Senate Colleagues on Monday March 27, 2006. I am sending you a copy of that statement.

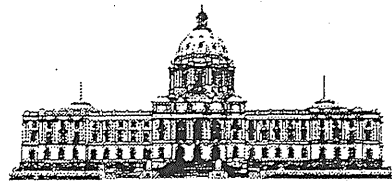
Please do feel free to share this letter and the statement with others as you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Dean E. Johnson
Minnesota Senate Majority Leader

President of the Senate
JAMES METZEN
Senate District 39
322 State Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Phone: (651) 296-4370
And
312 Deerwood Court
South St. Paul, MN 55075
(651) 451-0174



Senate

State of Minnesota

March 31, 2006

Senator Mike McGinn
Senator Claire Robling
Senator Dean Elton Johnson
Ellen G. Sampson

The requirements of the resolution adopted March 24, 2006, having been met, the complaint dated March 22, 2006, by Senator Mike McGinn, Senator Claire Robling, and others against Senator Dean Elton Johnson is dismissed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James P. Metzen".

Senator James P. Metzen, Chair
Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct.



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Division - Capital Investment – Rules and Administration Committee – **Boards/Commissions:**
Legislative Coordinating Commission – LCC Salary & Budget Review Subcommittee –
Legislative Audit Commission

March 22, 2006

Senate

State of Minnesota

Senator James P. Metzen
Chair, Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct
322 Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

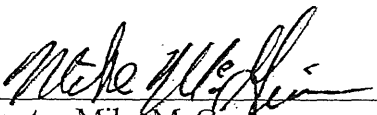
Dear Senator Metzen:

Attached to this letter is a complaint regarding the conduct of Senator Dean E. Johnson. This complaint is prepared pursuant to the provisions of Senate Permanent Rule 55. By the delivery of this letter and attached complaint, it is hereby filed pursuant to Rule 55. We ask for the Subcommittee to investigate these allegations and take action in accordance with this Rule.


We are aware that a member of the Subcommittee, Senator Mee Moua may be physically unable to participate in the Subcommittee's deliberations. If a new member of the Subcommittee needs to be appointed, we ask that the Majority Leader not make that appointment. As the subject of the complaint, it would be inappropriate for Senator Dean E. Johnson to participate in the Subcommittee's activities to such an extent.

We look forward to the Subcommittee acting on this complaint.

Sincerely,



Senator Mike McGinn



Senator Claire Robling

**COMPLAINT
TO THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ETHICAL CONDUCT
REGARDING THE ACTIONS
OF
SENATOR DEAN E. JOHNSON**

Senators Mike McGinn, Claire Robling, Dick Day, Warren Limmer, Geoff Michel, and Pat Pariseau, each being first duly sworn, state and allege under oath the following based upon information and belief:

1. Senator Dean E. Johnson addressed a gathering of clergy from New London and Spicer, Minnesota in the city of New London, Minnesota in January of 2006.

2. At this meeting, Senator Johnson spoke to the issue of a proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman. This constitutional amendment has been, and is, an issue that will be considered by the Minnesota Senate in the 2006 legislative session.

3. As part of the discussion at this meeting, Senator Johnson is heard to state that he has had conversations with three of the justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court, naming one of them specifically. Senator Johnson, without qualification of any manner, asserted that those justices assured him that they would not find the current Minnesota statute that defines marriage to be unconstitutional.

4. Minnesota's Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judges and justices from discussing cases that could come before the court and from committing to vote on a case or issue in a certain way if the case does come before them.

5. The former Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court specifically named by Senator Johnson has absolutely denied the assertion that she committed to any particular ruling or finding in this matter, stating "It just never happened."

6. The Minnesota Supreme Court has also issued a statement that as to any of the justices, "No such promise or commitment was made."

7. Nonetheless, in an interview with Minnesota Public Radio on March 16, 2006, Senator Johnson continued to assert that he had talked with one of the justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court about the legality of the Minnesota statutory amendments passed in 1997 defining marriage. Senator Johnson flatly stated that, in a casual conversation, the justice definitely assured him that the Supreme Court would not overturn the law.

8. However, changing his assertions, in a story regarding this issue that appeared in the March 17, 2006 edition of the Star Tribune newspaper, Senator Johnson is quoted in an interview with reporters from the newspaper that:

“I embellished it to say the judiciary doesn’t seem too interested in overturning this”.

9. On March 17, 2006, in a briefing with reporters, Senator Johnson again retreated from some aspects of his previous comments – the conversation involved only one justice and it occurred during a chance encounter. Nonetheless, Senator Johnson continued to assert that he had had a discussion with a justice regarding the legality of Minnesota’s 1997 enactments defining marriage.

10. In an interview with reporters on March 20, 2006, current Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Russell Anderson flatly denied that any conversation, whether formal or casual, whether specific or general, had ever occurred between Senator Johnson and a justice of the Supreme Court. According to a story in the March 21, 2006 edition of the Star Tribune newspaper, Chief Justice Anderson stated that he had spoken with every member of the Court, as well as the former Chief Justice, and emphatically maintained that:

“we have not had conversations with Senator Johnson about DOMA [Defense of Marriage Act] or how we might decide any matter relating to it. This just never happened.”

11. Senate Permanent Rule 56.1 states that “Members shall adhere to the highest standard of ethical conduct”.

12. Senate Permanent Rule 56.3 provides the standard that “Improper conduct includes conduct ... that violates accepted norms of Senate behavior, that betrays the public trust, or that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor or disrepute.”

13. It is your complainants’ belief that Senator Dean E. Johnson violated Senate Permanent Rule 56.

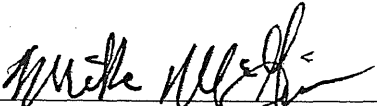
14. Senator Johnson made public comments regarding an issue before the Minnesota Senate. He is clearly making these assertions for the purpose of convincing participants at these meetings and the public generally that the proposed constitutional amendment defining marriage is unnecessary and that his opinion on the proposed legislation is correct.

15. Senator Johnson has repeatedly lied or misled in his assertions that he has had conversations or a conversation with former and/or a current member or members of the Minnesota Supreme Court during which he was assured that Minnesota’s statutory


definition of marriage would be found constitutional. Senator Johnson has himself admitted that many aspects of his statements were not true or accurate. However, he has continued to claim that, in some form, he has had a conversation with a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court regarding this subject. As evidenced by the denials from the former Chief Justice and the current Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Senator Johnson's statements are false or misleading.

16. Your complainants ask that the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct find that Senator Johnson has violated Senate Permanent Rule 56 and that it recommend such disciplinary action as the Subcommittee finds appropriate.

Date: March 22, 2006



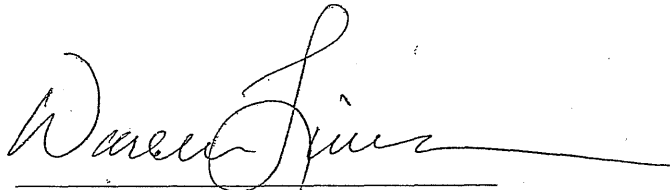
Senator Mike McGinn



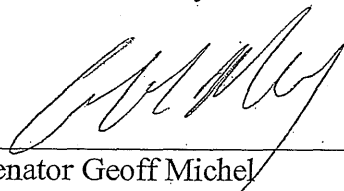
Senator Claire Robling




Senator Dick Day



Senator Warren Limmer



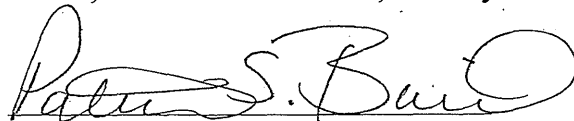
Senator Geoff Michel



Senator Pat Pariseau

public, on March 22, 2006.

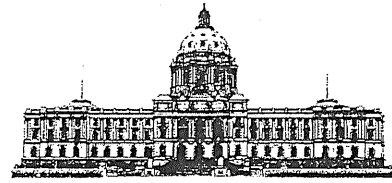
Subscribed to, and sworn before me, a notary





SENATOR MEE MOUA

District 67
235 State Capitol Building
75 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1606
Phone: (651) 296-5285
Fax: (651) 225-7587
E-mail: sen.mee.moua@senate.mn



Senate

State of Minnesota

March 23, 2006

Senator James P. Metzen, Chair
Senate Rules and Administration Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct
322 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Senator Metzen:

After speaking with you concerning an impending meeting of your subcommittee, and given my current medical condition, I am temporarily resigning from the Rules Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct until such time I am able to return to my duties as a state senator.

Sincerely,


Senator Mee Moua

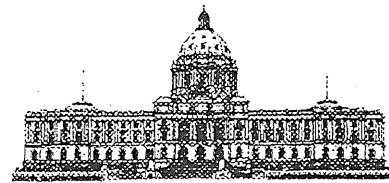
Cc: Senator Ann Rest



ANN H. REST

The Senate Assistant Majority Leader
205 State Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Phone: (651) 296-2889
Fax: (651) 225-7590
E-mail: sen.ann.rest@senate.mn



Senate

State of Minnesota

March 23, 2006

The Honorable James P. Metzen
President of the Minnesota Senate
322 State Capitol

Dear Senator Metzen:

The Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration on Thursday, March 23, 2006 by appropriate action made the following appointment:

Pursuant to Permanent Rules of the Senate, Rule 55.1

Committee on Rules and Administration Ethical Conduct Subcommittee: Senator Wesley J. Skoglund to temporarily replace Senator Mee Moua until she is able to fulfill her senatorial duties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann H. Rest".

ANN H. REST
Subcommittee on Committees
Vice Chair, Rules and Administration Committee

Cc: Catherine Morrison, Office of the Engrossing Secretary, Minnesota Senate
Connie Peltier, Director of Journal Production, Minnesota Senate
Peter Wattson, Senate Counsel and Research, Minnesota Senate

COMMITTEES: Vice Chair, Rules & Administration; Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming; Commerce; Judiciary; Transportation; Transportation Budget Division

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