

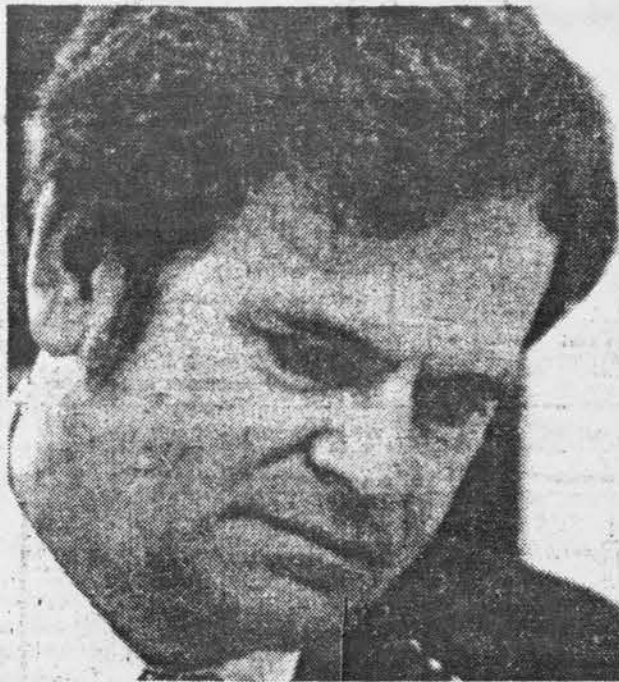


Emily Anne Staples Tuttle papers.

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Rep. Gilbert Esau

Female lobbyist says legislator had sex, not work, on his mind

By SUZANNE PERRY, PATRICK MARX
and DEBRA STONE
Minneapolis Star Staff Writers

Rep. Gilbert Esau, 59, a seven-term Independent-Republican legislator from Mountain Lake, has been accused by a 20-year-old female lobbyist of turning a meeting about family planning legislation into a personal discussion of sex.

Rochelle Davis specifically alleges that Esau, a leader of the "pro-life, pro-family and pro-decency" caucus of the House, made sexually suggestive remarks to her. Esau denied any impure motives.

The encounter has been widely discussed at the Capitol, particularly among feminists who are opposed to the anti-abortion and anti-contraception stands of the "pro-decency" legislators. A number of these legislators, they claim, profess a standard of high morality, but live by another.

The Davis incident smoldered for some time, but was brought to the surface by feminist Koryne Horbal, a Minnesota Democratic national committeewoman, in testimony before a House committee and in an interview published recently in The Minneapolis Star.

In the newspaper interview, she also charged that Capitol pages are "warned to watch out for certain legislators who will try to pat them on the behind and so on. Those legislators are named and they happen to be some of the people who are out there legislating morality."

On March 13, Horbal testified before Esau's health and welfare subcommittee about a bill to cut off public family planning money to agencies that perform abortions. She said:

"We resent that we cannot lobby some of you as professionals on this subject but must contend with immature sexual overtures because you think we are

'talking dirty' when we discuss human reproduction."

Davis' encounter with Esau began as a lobbying assignment. As lobbyist for the Minnesota Women's Political Caucus, Davis wanted to talk to Esau about a bill before his subcommittee requiring parental consent before contraceptives could be dispensed to minors.

The bill is a priority of the "pro-decency" caucus, a group made up mainly of conservative DFL and Republican legislators. Many of them meet regularly for prayer sessions at the Capitol.

Earlier this year, the 30-member caucus announced a 13-point legislative program, which has the support of most anti-abortion groups. It would ban obscene

movies from outdoor theaters, provide financial aid to women who refuse abortions, guarantee parents the right to review textbooks and prohibit family planning money from going to organizations which provide abortion services.

Personal questions

Davis, a Macalester College student who plans to join the staff of former U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug next week, said she picked up Esau at the Capitol about 5 p.m. March 5 to take him on a tour of Family Tree, a St. Paul family planning clinic. Afterward, they had dinner at Great Expectations restaurant in St. Paul.

During the dinner, she said, Esau began asking her personal questions. "I assumed the reason they kept coming up was the nature of what we were talking about," she said. "He asked me if I used Family Tree. He wanted to get an idea of my morals."

She said that Esau "started talking about the irrepressible male sex drive" and "told me he was so lonely, he even had a wet dream last night, and did I know what they are?" He also asked if he could see her



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EMILY ANNE STAPLES

Senator, 43rd District
235 Minnesota Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
(612) 296-4137
1640 Xanthus Lane
Plymouth, Minnesota 55391
(612) 473-9120

Senate

State of Minnesota

August 8, 1979

Mrs. Ruby M. Exel
3659 Noble
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Dear Mrs. Exel:

Your letter disturbed me a great deal and unfortunately you are not alone in the situation you described. I have asked the Minnesota Commission on the Economic Status of Women and our Senate Research Department to see if there is any relief we can suggest. At the moment there doesn't seem to be much more I can do, but I will let you know as soon as I have responses from the Commission and Senate Research.

Best regards,

Emily Anne Staples

EMILY ANNE STAPLES
State Senator

EAS:jb

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Senate
State of Minnesota

August 8, 1979

MEMO

To: Nina Rothchild, Council on the Economic
Status of Women

From: Senator Emily Anne Staples *EAS*

Re: Attached letter from Ruby M. Exel

HELP! How do I respond.

EAS:jb

EMILY ANNE STAPLES

Senator, 43rd District
235 Minnesota Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
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1640 Xanthus Lane
Plymouth, Minnesota 55391
(612) 473-9120

Senate
State of Minnesota

August 8, 1979

MEMO

To: Bill Riemerman, Director
Senate Research

From: Senator Emily Anne Staples *EAS*

Re: Letter from Ruby M. Exel (attached)

Bill, I would really like to have someone look
at what we can do in a situation like this and
give me some ideas.

EAS:jb

Attachment

July 20, 1979

Warren Spannaus
Attorney General
Room 102 Capitol Building
Aurora Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

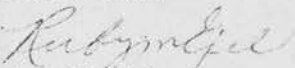
Dear Attorney General Spannaus:

This letter is regarding child support and the injustice of the Minnesota Laws. I went to court for medical assistance for my two minor children for problems unaware of at the time of the divorce, I was refused. At the present time the total for the bills is well over \$3,000.00. I have a son who will be 18 years old in July, support money will then stop, the other one is 14 years old and will be home for another three years at least, and I do not feel I should have to sell my house to pay these bills.

Their fathers income has increased from \$26,000 to \$32,500 a year, since 1973 at the time of the divorce. He is married and there are no children involved and his wifes' income is in the lower \$20,000 bracket.

Enclosed is a resume of the data involved, please do not put this letter aside, I know what I am talking about and I feel there should be some direction from you as to how to handle this. Your response will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Ruby M. Exel
3659 Noble
Robbinsdale, MN. 55422

cc: Alderman Ray Mattson
Emily A. Staples, Vice Chairman

CHILDREN:

John Exel - Child Support \$200.00 per month - will stop as of July 30, 1979 his 18th birthday.

Susuan Exel - Child Support \$200.00 based on fathers income for 1970.

FATHER:

Income at time of divorce \$26,000 - present income \$32,500
Wives income \$20,000

Place of employment: School District 13 in Columbia Jr. High.
Columbia Heights, MN.

MOTHER:

Income with MN/DOT \$9,777.00 and \$200.00 alimony, no income at the time of divorce, not training other then 3 months Business College. Age 55. Present Credit Union Loan \$1,900.00 this for music education for John, other then other bills and vacation.

Bills for medical and dental, also Psychologist and Allergist
Dr. Ronald Kyllonen \$3,600.00 after insurance
Dr. Richard Adamson 265.00
Dr. Melcohm Blumenthol, Allergist 282.00 after insurance
Family Clinic 285.00 after insurance

This clinic refused help only in emergency due to the fact I have not been able to send in payments like I should, Mr. Exel has the children on his insurance and I am responsible for the bill, this does not make for good arrangments and should not be allowed in the laws.

\$500.00 for two air conditioners recommended by Allergist for Susan.
I Can send xeroxe copies of all bills.

THINGS & NECESSITIES THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD:

Insulation for the house, and water damage from last winter
Car is 1974 Plymouth, in need of repair
Small Stucco House in Robbinsdale
No funds to return to an Attorney to pursue this again.

ATTORNEYS INVOLVED:

Byron W. McCullagh - Soo Line Building - My Attorney
James Reece - Soo Line Building, free service throu the State
Rolf T. Nelson - Refused to go back into court for me after
Mr. McCullagh failed. Mr. Nelson did not believe me when I told him how much medical I was paying each month.

Enn - this is the paper on

I ACSW I told you about.

Other than Joy Simonson (and
do you have her address?), to whom
should it go?

_____ Anne			
_____ Vivian			
_____ Emily Ann	<input type="checkbox"/>	ORDER	<input type="checkbox"/> XEROX
_____ Ginny	<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> ADD NAME TO PROFESSIONAL MAILING LIST
_____ Beryl	<input type="checkbox"/>	PROCESS	
_____ Barb			<input type="checkbox"/> ADD NAME TO CAMPUS MAILING LIST
_____ Sue	<input type="checkbox"/>	GET BULLETINS	
_____ Nancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	MIMEOGRAPH	<input type="checkbox"/> ENCLOSE
_____ Lynda			
_____ Renée	<input type="checkbox"/>	CARD FOR RESOURCE COLLECTION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALENDAR
_____ Carol			
_____ Cathy			

LIFESTYLES OF AMERICAN WOMEN
September 28, 1972

by Shirley Wilcox

Interstate Association of

For a non-informed person, the Second Annual Conference of the ~~State~~ ^{Interstate Association of} Commissions on the Status of Women, held at the Sheraton Ritz, June 15-18, 1972, was overpowering. As a matter of fact, it took me a month to read through the literature I accumulated at the conference.

The theme of the conference was "outreach". I am still somewhat confused as to what was meant by "outreach". To be frank I am still confused as to what exactly is the function of the Commission on the Status of Women.

According to the "Basic Program Planning Module" for the ~~IA~~ ^{IACS}CSW, Phase I, "it determines the needs of a particular group of persons being served - regardless of socio-economic levels, ethnic backgrounds, etc.----Data obtained from churches, business and professional associations," is one of the ways CSW can be effective. Accordingly then, it is understandable why I, as a poor, single person, have had no contact with said commission, since I belong to none of these types of organizations. However, it is an accepted fact that the doors open to accomplishment by the poor - and not only women - have been opened by the rich or middle class organizations such as the ~~CSW~~ ^{IACS}. Bad? Who knows. Perhaps the word paternalism is just offensive.

The Minnesota Chapter of the ~~IA~~ ^{IACS}CSW must be given credit for the fifty free scholarships to the poor so as to enable these women to attend the convention. It is apparent what this chapter's definition of "outreach" was. However, representatives of some other states felt that the "conference" was for business purposes only, and that "outreach" applied to the "conference" in that each representative give a speech as to what their individual commissions were doing to encompass as many women at different socio-economic levels as possible, and o

not as an informative conference for non-representatives.

The set-up and functioning of the conference itself was impressive. The conference involved a fast-moving pace with an enormous amount of information offered. Held at one of the finer hotels in Minneapolis, one was surrounded by elegance and women of high standings who were able to advance in a man's world. It gave women an opportunity to meet and listen to the minds, thoughts, and accomplishments of women and their organizations on an international level. In many ways the conference reminded me of a business man's luncheon.

For instance, the podium, speakers sitting erect behind it, and out on the main floor the bodies sitting behind clothed tables, with water pitchers for thirst, and centerpieces of flowers for the artistic touch. The only difference between the conference and a businessman's luncheon was the flowers and hugs given in appreciation to the President and ~~man~~ speakers.

Is this bad? No not really. But I ~~question~~ question if this is the way for women to affect real change by following the pattern of businessmen. Can women who are fighting for their rights in their own way, allow themselves to fall into the rut of a status-quo, male world?

I felt some despair as I sat back and watched the play proceed. The actors moved and spoke, truly believing in what they said and did. Working hard to enlighten the other representatives as to their role and that of their organization in the women's movement. Yet they were hindered. Hindered by male direction and by social and cultural priorities and prejudice.

For example: Theme "Outreach", Line: "We now have four poor people involved in our commission and two of them are black."

Line: "This is a black caucus and no poor whites are admitted."

Line: "These are business meetings. I don't see how it could possibly interest people other than representatives."

Bad? Not really. I have a habit of expecting too much. Since the Commission

on the Status of Women is a human rights situation I assumed that all socio-economic levels would be considered without a special drive, condemnation of skin color, or paternalism.

However, to attain a common goal between the socio-economic gap is difficult and sometimes impossible for human beings, even of the same sex with definite goals in mind. The only apparent agreeable ~~goal~~ goal among the representatives seemed to be that of equality of wages and position in labor and organizing women.

An apparent failure of the goals was that ~~to~~ of the poor women who were unable to organize themselves.

My touch of sarcasm must give you the idea that I dislike the convention. Wrong! Even though I felt, in many ways, the ^{IACSW} SCSW could have been more effective, it is understandable, given certain facts, why the convention moved in direction that it did. After all, one must consider the fact that the ^{IACSW} SCSW is a "baby in the cradle", so to speak. The ^{IACSW} SCSW is only about two years old, therefore, still functioning on beginning basis of getting itself together. The difference of opinion as to the definition of "outreach", lack of communication, lack of time, and most important, societal differences seemed to have been apparent problems at this conference.

Turn about face psychologically for women is, and will be for some time to come, difficult.

My suggestion, for these various commissions would be to set out to inform all women, in say local workshops, as to what is happening to them as women. To have speakers at these workshops to explain in a specialized manner the literature and information ~~is~~ available.

Nonetheless, I am glad I was invited to the conference. It gave me an opportunity to become aware of one aspect of the women's movement. I felt I did not receive and maintain a great deal from the conference. However, this problem was enlarged by my own ignorance of the ~~IA~~^{IA} CSW. Also, it gave me an opportunity to meet interesting people, and be introduced to a variety of information that I had not known before. As a matter of fact if there is another conference I hope I will be invited again.



FRANK C. KENT, COMMISSIONER

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101
TEL. 221-2931 - AREA CODE 612

February 28, 1969

Mrs. Loring Staples, Jr.
6th Avenue North Road
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Mrs. Staples:

It gives me great pleasure to reappoint you to the Advisory Committee of the Division on Women's Affairs for a term expiring March 1, 1971.

Your enthusiasm in seeing an important task well done has helped to build the structure through which much needed significant work has begun. I am confident your contributions of time, leadership, knowledge and concern will bring us closer to the realization of our efforts to obtain equal access for opportunities to permit Minnesota women to make their full contribution.

Thank you for your willingness to remain an active participant of the Advisory Committee. Your assistance in the successful development of our Women's Division is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank C. Kent", written over a horizontal line.

Frank C. Kent
Commissioner

FCK/edm