

6/28/2009

Dear Board of Wildlife Commissioners, I am unable to attend your August Meeting, but feel you should know of my encounter with Commissioner Lent prior to election of your new chairman.

On June 28, 2009 Jim Nelson and I traveled to Lovelock for a Wildlife Commission meeting. We arrived just prior to 2:00 and the meeting started thereafter. We were there in support of NBU's request to be awarded Governor's tags to be auctioned at our 2010 banquet. After being approved by the committee (Scott Raine, Tom Cavin and Pete Mori) to receive three tags, Jim and I started to exit the meeting room. Commissioner Lent was coming in the room as we were leaving. As he passed next to me, he said "you are a f-ing terrorist". I looked around to see if he was speaking to someone else but no one was there. I have never met Mr. Lent so I was very surprised that we was speaking to me. I assume because I gave my name and spoke in favor of NBU just prior to the encounter this must have qualified me to be a terrorist.

Once outside the meeting room, Jim and I stopped to talk to a female staff person about the allotments and general issues. About this time Mr. Lent came passing by from the other direction and called Jim Nelson a "f-ing pr---". Jim said "excuse me" and Mr. Lent said "you heard me, you are a f-ing pr---". Jim asked him why he would say that. Mr. Lent then told Jim he had a DVD of Jim's interview with the media regarding the Governor's appointments to the Wildlife Commission. He said he watches it every week to remind himself how much he hates NBU. He then called Jim a "terrorist". Jim apologized for the interview if Mr. Lent was offended and stated it was Jim's thoughts and opinion on the record, not that of NBU. Mr. Lent then launched an attack on "that f-ing Larry Johnson".

Further in the conversation Mr. Lent stated he thought he appointed the right people on the heritage tag allotment committee but he was wrong and next year he would appoint himself and make damn sure NBU got nothing. Maybe a turkey tag if he felt generous. For the next hour we listened to him rant about Larry Johnson. We both tried a calm, sensible approach but he snapped right back to Larry and how NBU board members are all "Larry clones". Further, Mr. Lent stated it's not done yet – he would talk to the full board the following day.

The female staff person from Winnemucca heard parts of the conversation and Commissioner Mori passed by two times, hesitated but did not stop.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Greg Smith  
Sportsman and NBU Member

