

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

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MEMORANDUM

By Dale S. Thompson

Date May 8, 1974

FILE: Governor's Justice Commission

Department of Justice
Audit Report

A review of the audit report (copy attached) issued by the Pennsylvania Auditor General on March 9, 1973 reveals:

1. The audit covers the entire Department of Justice, excluding State-owned penal and correctional institutions and correctional industries, for the two fiscal years ended June 30, 1971 and 1972.
2. Total funds available for that period were \$42,093,758, of which \$25,352,730 was available from LEAA funds to be disbursed by the Governor's Justice Commission.
3. The audit report made 15 recommendations, many of which pertained to fiscal or related matters. It should be noted that the Comptroller of the Department, who is primarily responsible for some of the deficiencies, is an employee directly answerable to the Secretary of Administration. The recommendations are:
 - A. The Comptroller's Office failed to ensure the completion and retention of all documents supporting accounting entries.
 - B. The Comptroller's Office failed to provide adequate security over its postage meter.
 - C. The inventory and control of furniture and equipment in the Comptroller's Office was poor.

- D. There were numerous violations of the prescribed travel expense rules and regulations; approving officials and the Comptroller's Office failed to properly review and audit travel vouchers. (See Page 5 of audit report for details.)
- E. The Bureau of Correction failed to promptly transmit funds for deposit.
- F. The Department failed to promptly and adequately pursue the collection of inmates maintenance charges in the amount of \$2,865,088 due as of June 30, 1972 from Allegheny County. This had increased to \$3,998,216, representing the monthly billings since March 20, 1971, against which no payments were made by the county.

The Comptroller stated the county's unpaid balance as of April 22, 1974 was \$3,264,000, the last payment being \$76,194 in March 1974. Present charges average about \$75,000 per month and will cease as of June 30, 1974 because of full State funding. The county is reducing the outstanding balance by large periodic payments:
August 1973 - paid \$393,000; January 1974 - paid \$280,000; and February 1974 - paid \$393,000.

- G. In regard to the Inmates General Welfare Fund, (1) there was a lack of administrative rules and regulations defining policies and procedures of the Fund; (2) the Comptroller is not active in the review and management of the Fund; and (3) loans were improperly made to inmates in the Community Treatment Centers from the Fund.
- H. The Collections Division failed to prepare accurate management reports concerning collection activities and at stated periodic intervals.
- I. Certain individuals appointed as Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General failed to take the prescribed oath of office.

- J. The Department had 55 vacancies (484 positions filled) as of June 30, 1972, fourteen of which had been vacant for 90 days or more. These should be reviewed and long-term vacancies abolished.
- K. The Department circumvented the Commonwealth's lapsing provisions by spending \$7,300 for postage for the postage meter on June 8, 1972, increasing the available balance at that date to \$9,390; the average monthly postage expense had been about \$600 per month.
- L. The Department had made efforts to establish a centralized inventory control system of capital assets, but it was incomplete and a physical inventory of all property had not been taken.
- M. Inventory control cards pertaining to office supplies were inaccurate and some differences could be attributed to the issuance of supplies to employees without properly executed requisitions.
- N. Employees did not comply with the rules and regulations concerning the maintenance and repairs of automotive equipment; as an example, repairs exceeding the maximum allowable amounts were obtained without submitting the proper estimates.
- O. Service Purchase Contracts entered into by the Department violated Administrative Directive No. 14, two of which were:
 - (1) The Governor's Justice Commission made expenditures of \$869.40 for the use of a conference room and meals for a 3-day conference of the Commission in August 1971; competitive bids were not obtained, nor was sole source justified.
 - (2) A contract specified that "contractor agrees to serve as Deputy Attorney General in the Department of Justice" without the approval of then Governor Shafer as was required. The contractor (Mr. Hagele) was paid \$493.37 in travel expenses, which expenses were not authorized by the contract.

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May 8, 1974

4. The Auditor General submitted an audit report (copy attached) on July 12, 1971 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1970 and it contained six recommendations. Four of these recommendations pertained to similar areas as criticized in the subsequent audit report; namely, travel expense vouchers, service purchase contracts, inventory of equipment, and the Collections Division.
5. The Auditor General has recently initiated audits of 8 State-owned penal and correctional institutions and expects to issue reports within the next few weeks; the first report, pertaining to Graterford, was issued in April 1974 and a copy has been obtained and analyzed.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

May 8, 1974

The Honorable Joseph Rhodes, Jr.
House of Representatives
Room 606
Main Capitol Building

Dear Representative Rhodes:

In your letter of November 28, 1973 to Chairman Hepford, you indicated concern about the distribution of LEAA funds through the Governor's Justice Commission. I understand this concern relates to information available to Warden William B. Robinson, Allegheny County Prison.

Warden Robinson did furnish information to Mr. Truman Burke concerning four grants which had been made to the prison but, reportedly, not to be renewed. We are making inquiries concerning these grants at the Governor's Justice Commission and will advise you of our findings.

Sincerely,

DOWNEY RICE
Committee Counsel

DR:rf

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

MEMORANDUM

By Dale S. Thompson

Date May 6, 1974

FILE: Governor's Justice Commission

On May 6, Representative Rhodes was interviewed about his letter of November 28, 1973 to the Chairman. He was specifically asked what he had in mind in relation to the following item in paragraph 2 of his letter:

- (1) The investigation to LEAA Fund distribution through the Governor's Justice Commission; * * *

He said this referred to information he had received from Warden William B. Robinson of the Allegheny County Prison. He continued that it was his understanding that Truman Burke had interviewed the warden and taken care of this matter, however, he had not seen any write-up on the interview.

It has been determined that the warden was interviewed by Mr. Burke on November 1, 1973 and the results thereof set forth in a memorandum dated November 2.

JOSEPH RHODES, JR., MEMBER
1527 OBERLIN STREET
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15206



COMMITTEES
URBAN AFFAIRS
WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 28, 1973

*Received 11/29/73
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Noted Mj*

The Honorable Joseph Hepford
128 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Joe:

In terms of your letter of last week concerning my letter of November 1, let me clarify what I meant to say to you then.

My primary concern for our committee's future investigations is twofold: (1) The investigation to LEAA Fund distribution through the Governor's Justice Commission; and (2) the investigation into the conflict of interest that arises naturally between the Office of the District Attorney and law enforcement officers charged with wrongdoing.

This has been a very serious problem dramatically demonstrated in Allegheny County in a number of ways in the last few weeks and has also been a widely publicized problem in the Philadelphia newspapers in the terms of Mr. Specter's office.

I do not believe this is a problem that is simply a matter of the personalities of Mr. Dugan and Mr. Specter, but rather it rises out of the natural conflict of interest between the District Attorney's Office and law enforcement agencies.

Best regards,

Joseph Rhodes Jr.

Joseph Rhodes, Jr.

JR:wly

CHAIRMAN

H. Joseph Hepford

MEMBERS

Eugene R. Geesey
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Joseph Rhodes, Jr.
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

May 9, 1974

The Honorable Israel Packer
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Department of Justice Building
Capital Annex
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

My dear General:

As you may know, the members of this Committee and myself have a continuing interest in the work and functions of the Governor's Justice Committee that administers the program in Pennsylvania established by the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Act.

Our investigator, Dale S. Thompson, just talked to Mr. Snavelly about reviewing files and records relating to a number of grants that are of concern in our mutual interest in good law enforcement. Mr. Snavelly said that it would be helpful if your approval was forthcoming before the material can be made available for review.

Would you, therefore, be good enough to indicate your approval to both Mr. Snavelly and to me by the close of business on Monday, May 13, 1974?

Cordially,

H. JOSEPH HEPFORD
Chairman

HJH:rf