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

MEMORANDUM

By Dale S. Thompson

Date May 22, 1974

FILE: Governor's Justice Commission

On May 21, the following officials of LEAA were interviewed at the Philadelphia office, 325 Chestnut Street: Charles F. Rinkevich, Regional Director; Melvin Ruud, Deputy Administrator; Neal Berg, Chief, Financial Management Division; and Christopher Martin, state representative.

Mr. Rinkevich advised that LEAA did not have an evaluation, as such, of the Pennsylvania LEAA program as administered by the Governor's Justice Commission, nor does it compare the program in one state versus the program in another. He said the best assessment of the program would be that contained in the LEAA audit report of 1973.

In connection with this audit report, it was a three-month project by four or five LEAA men. The office has received three or four letters from the Governor's Justice Commission in reply to the audit report; however, the total audit report has not yet been cleared. Neal Berg is working on recommendations which, hopefully, will be furnished in the next several weeks. Some of the individual cases or grants have been informally resolved and monies refunded to LEAA. A final definite resolution has not been made in connection with the Philadelphia Public Defender's Office grant.

Mr. Rinkevich indicated that LEAA has accepted the executive order to establish the Governor's Justice Commission in the State of Pennsylvania; however, it is LEAA policy that they would prefer to have a legislated organization to carry out the LEAA program in each state. He believes this gives the organization more clout. 11

LEAA also has concern that the State Legislature in Pennsylvania is not giving this program adequate consideration. As an example: The State Legislature has not adequately and promptly provided matching state funds for the program within the state. It was early in calendar 1974 before the Legislature had provided

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matching funds for the year which was almost over. This causes a tremendous operating impediment to the program. He also noted that Senator RICHARD A. SNYDER (R) and Representative K. LEROY IRVIS (D) were members of the governing board of the Commission; however, Irvis very rarely attends meetings. Rinkevich, who was formerly Executive Director of the Commission at Harrisburg, indicated these legislators were put in these positions so that the Legislature would have an input to the program. This has not adequately worked.

In connection with radio equipment for police departments being funded by the Governor's Justice Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, it is possible that the purpose of the grants and the overall programs are different in intent. Consequently, it would be proper for the Department of Transportation to make an award while it would not be in accordance with the Governor's Justice Commission policy. ?

The state planning agency should be aware and take into account dollars available from other state agencies and programs. ?

11 The State of Kentucky has recently legislated a good Department of Justice system within that state. It provides that the state planning agency in Kentucky, with expanded functions, will encompass the planning for all criminal justice programs within the state. LEAA is very heartened by this state effort. The new setup in Kentucky is described in the attached newsletter for January-February 1974.

The training and education of police officers is another example that requires coordination within a state. This includes minimum qualifications for police officers. Funds for this type of training and education are available from the Governor's Justice Commission, as well as the State Department of Education.

In connection with the evaluation program in the state, it was really the Monagan review of the block grant programs in LEAA which started the whole effort. About 1-1/2 years ago, the Governor's Justice Commission started working on the evaluation needs of their office. It is LEAA's opinion that Pennsylvania has set up an excellent system which goes beyond the minimum which would be required by LEAA. This evaluation system is now just beginning to pay off in results. LEAA is generally pleased with the structure and the results, which is considered the best evaluation program in the Philadelphia region. Evaluation of projects is a particular present concern of LEAA. ?

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The effort by the State of Pennsylvania to consider the adoption of certain standards and goals within the state is a step in the right direction; however, if these standards and goals are not insisted upon, then ~~natural~~ failure for the total program in Pennsylvania will occur. Reportedly, the Lieutenant Governor's program in this connection has no clout.

There is to be a Standards and Goals Conference in Pittsburgh on June 5, 6 and 7, which would be an advantageous conference for State Legislators and others interested in the program to attend.

In connection with the standards and goals within the State of Pennsylvania, it is entirely possible that the various eight councils do not have unified standards and goals where it would be practicable to do so.

It is LEAA's understanding that each region of the Commission has two fiscal monitors who check on the activities of the grant during the life of the project. The auditors for the Department of Justice perform the final close-out audit. LEAA has insisted upon the Auditor General auditing the activities of the Governor's Justice Commission, with a look at the quality of the grant audits; however, LEAA has not insisted that the Auditor General conduct all of the grant audits.

GOVERNOR'S JUSTICE COMMISSION  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Executive House

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HARRISBURG, PA.; July 21, 1972:--Responding to questions raised by news media in the wake of State Police Commissioner Rocco Urella's comments earlier this week to the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association warning them not to accept Federal funds, E. Drexel Godfrey, Jr., Executive Director of the Governor's Justice Commission, today dismissed charges that community receipt of Federal funds means Federal control of local authority.

"The only strings attached to Federal money," Mr. Godfrey said, "are those reasonable fiscal and programmatic controls that guarantee the tax payer that his money is being spent as it was intended."

Mr. Godfrey noted that Colonel Urella is a Commissioner on the Governor's Justice Commission which has allocated nearly \$68 million in LEAA and other Federal monies to various segments of the Pennsylvania criminal justice system since 1968 and that he has himself frequently requested Federal funds for the State Police.

When asked how much Federal money the State Police have received, Mr. Godfrey replied that they had received an aggregated total of \$2,248,958 through the Justice Commission alone. He noted that his Commission was only one of several agencies through which Federal money was made available to State Police

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and other criminal justice agencies.

Mr. Godfrey stated that the full Commission is on record as favoring and encouraging merger and cooperation among the State's thousands of fragmented and tiny police operations towards building more effective and efficient regional police operations in the interest of better protecting the lives and property of people. Colonel Urella, he said, was opposed to this policy. He indicated that he did not know why.

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