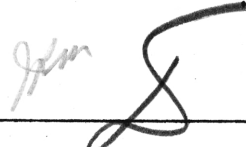


HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

MEMORANDUM



By Dale S. Thompson

Date June 11, 1974

FILE: Governor's Justice Commission

On June 11, 1974, Mrs. MARTHA KUNKEL was interviewed at her home, 1330 Crums Mill Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, telephone No. 652-2440. She furnished the following information.

Mr. MITCH RIGEL was employed as Executive Director of Yoke Crest sometime in 1971 and remained in that position until January 8, 1974. Mrs. Kunkel at one time was on the Board of Directors of Yoke Crest; however, she was not a member at the time Rigel was first employed and she does not know how he came to be with Yoke Crest. She was elected to the Board in September 1973 and is presently Chairman of the Board.

Mrs. Kunkel stated that she had learned that during 1972 or 1973, Mrs. Rigel and others formed a Pennsylvania corporation by the name of Alternatives, Inc. They were involved in two contracts let by the Governor's Justice Commission. The first was to operate a program relating to drug and alcohol abuse within the State Correctional System; the second was to set up a statewide program similar to Yoke Crest. This latter contract was received about December 1973.

It was about December 1973 that Mrs. Kunkel learned that LARRY BIENEMANN and MARCIA TEMPKE, and maybe other employees of Yoke Crest, had been used during the summer of 1973 to develop a proposed program for Alternatives, Inc. for which funding had been requested from the Governor's Justice Commission. Rigel, reportedly, was not officially a part of Alternatives, Inc. in that he was not on the Board of Directors and he was not an officer or employee.

Reportedly, Bienemann was taken off the Yoke Crest payroll in December 1973, and Rigel was employed by Yoke Crest through January 8, 1974. Removing these individuals from the payroll of Yoke Crest was apparently a unilateral action by Rigel. The Board of Directors and Mrs. Kunkel did not learn of this until later. Accordingly, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Yoke Crest on February 11, the Board of Directors accepted his resignation effective January 8, 1974.

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Mr. Rigel had proposed a so-called merger between Alternatives, Inc. and Yoke Crest. Alternatives, Inc. would operate with autonomy the Yoke Crest programs. Mrs. Kunkel stated that she appointed a committee to study this and also to have it considered by the attorney for Yoke Crest, Mr. SPITZER. Mrs. Kunkel said this arrangement did not make sense, it was not a rational proposition, and she was opposed to it. However, the majority of the Board felt that at least it ought to be explored further even though they did not necessarily subsequently accept it. She said that this proposal was discussed with Dr. GODFREY and the attorney for the Governor's Justice Commission who indicated they were not too enthused about the proposal.

JERRY JAFFE became the Project Director at Yoke Crest since January 1, 1974. JIM LEAKE was Director of the White Hill Project, Department of Corrections. LARRY BIENEMANN was also an employee of Yoke Crest and did a lot of the financial and contracting work.

She reported that Jaffe, Leake and Bienemann came to her and reported that they had heard Mitch Rigel was gambling and this was affecting his job performance. She said she would prefer to have one of the three report the details of Rigel's gambling affairs.

Jerry Jaffe was hired in effect to replace Bienemann because it had been indicated he was leaving to work on Alternatives, Inc. projects.

Mrs. Kunkel advised that the makeup of the Yoke Crest Board of Directors had changed over the years. At one time there were 15 members on the Board; then the Board consisted of 35 members with an Executive Committee. Later the Board consisted of 9 members, three of them being staff members; namely, Rigel, Farraday and Bienemann. This type of an arrangement was not acceptable to Mrs. Kunkel because she believed the Board should be independent of the staff employees. It was subsequently changed.

She said that DONALD STEPHENSON was a member of the Board of Directors of Yoke Crest, but resigned in December 1973 because of an overburdened schedule. She will furnish a copy of his letter of resignation. He did later return as a member of the Board of Yoke Crest.

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Mrs. Kunkel advised that Alternatives, Inc. was reimbursing Yoke Crest for the time of some of the Yoke Crest employees working on Alternatives, Inc. projects. With this exception, she never knew nor was she ever advised of any of the financial actions pertaining to Alternatives, Inc. accounts.

She knew that Rigel was appointed to the Southcentral Regional Council of the Governor's Justice Commission, but she does not know any of the details relating thereto. She also knows that he was a member of the Governor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse at one time, but does not know any of the details concerning that appointment.

In regard to financing of Yoke Crest, Mrs. Kunkel advised that their largest income comes from per diem paid for young adult first offenders who have been placed in the Yoke Crest facility upon order of the various courts throughout the State of Pennsylvania. They also receive funds from various churches and other sources, as well as federal funds under LEAA programs.

She knows that Marcia Tempke was an employee of Yoke Crest who later transferred to Alternatives, Inc. However, when grants to that company were cancelled, Ms. Tempke left and her whereabouts are unknown. Mrs. Kunkel does not know why Rigel fired Bienemann from employment with Alternatives, Inc.