

PATRICK A. GLEASON
CHAIRMAN



OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

SELECT COMMITTEE ON STATE CONTRACT PRACTICES

September 26, 1974

Honorable Israel Packel
Attorney General
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Justice Building
Capital Annex - Old Museum Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear General Packel:

It has come to my attention that your Department has conducted an investigation of the methods employed by Western Union in selling TWX machines to trucking companies. That investigation occurred in approximately April of 1973 and was conducted, at least in part, by Messrs. Nile Keene and Arthur Bressi.

Any information which that investigation revealed would be of assistance to this Committee in one of its investigations. I am therefore requesting that you provide to me any investigative files, documents, notes or any other data relating to such investigation by your office. I would appreciate that information being delivered to this Committee at Room 110, Main Capitol Building, by Wednesday, October 2, 1974 at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patrick A. Gleason".

Patrick A. Gleason
Chairman

PAG:nlr



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

November 15, 1973

MEMO

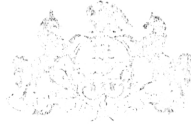
SUBJECT:

TO: All Committee Members and Staff

FROM: Jeff Hammett

Please find attached a copy of correspondence received by the committee from Mr. Edward Seladones, Deputy Secretary, Department of Environmental Resources in response to the committees request.

Attachment



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
HARRISBURG, PA. 17120

DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 31, 1973

Patrick A. Gleason, Chairman
Select Committee pursuant to
House Resolution 98
House of Representatives
Room 110, Main Capitol

Dear Representative Gleason:

To meet the interests of the Committee in having precise facts, to carry out the wishes of the Governor that your committee be given complete voluntary cooperation and for a common understanding, I would appreciate your entering the following clarification of my testimony in the Committee's official records.

The complete answer to Representative Comer's question on my knowledge of reasons for the rejection of proposed leases for the Gypsy Moth Laboratory is:

On the Route 22 (Rustrum Realty) site: I was never told of the reasons for rejection - nor do I know of anyone else in the department who was. On the Duncannon (Perry County) site: I was never told the reasons for rejection. However, Mr. Boris Weiner, Chief, Leasing and Contracts Division, Bureau of Real Estate, Department of Property and Supplies called William R. Carr, Chief, Division of Space and Records Management, Department of Environmental Resources and told him Mrs. Sloan was disapproving the lease because of the ten year term and costs. Her reasons were subsequently reported in the newspapers.

Sincerely yours,


EDWARD M. SELADONES

cc: Rep. Comer
William Carr
William Eichbaum

Since this is an executive session, there are questions to be raised relating to procedure.

- (1) Sufficient time was not given to those who were to receive copies of the files.
- (2) All members of the committee should receive the same materials not just majority and minority counsel and chairmen.
- (3) When will the committee be apprised of investigations.
- (4) Very few communications have been received from the chairman.

Re: Packel's letter. There was no communication to committee members other than Rep. Comer.

- (5) On September 28th, a witness was questioned, we have no knowledge of what transpired during that questioning.
- (6) Question on the issuance of subpoenas.
 - a. When were they served.
 - b. Proper notice hasn't been given to witnesses in order for them to prepare a written statement.
- (7) We have not been given sufficient time to study materials prior to the testimony of witnesses.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

October 24, 1973

MEMO

SUBJECT: Executive Sessions of the Select Committee Pursuant to HR 98

TO: Members and Staff of the Select Committee

FROM: Patrick A. Gleason, Chairman

Executive sessions for the Select Committee are scheduled for Monday, October 29, 1973 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 401, Main Capitol Building.

Procedural matters will be discussed between 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Commencing at 1:00 p.m., testimony of subpoenaed witnesses together with exhibits will be taken until approximately 5:00 p.m. Additional testimony and exhibits will be taken on Tuesday, October 30, 1973 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 401 for the remainder of the day, if necessary.

I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum to my staff which sets forth the names of the subpoenaed witnesses and other pertinent data.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

October 24, 1973

MEMO

SUBJECT: Procedure for Executive Session Meetings, October 29, 30, 1973

TO: Jeff Hammett

FROM: Patrick A. Gleason *PAG*

The following must be done to prepare ourselves for Executive Sessions of the Select Committee scheduled for October 29th and October 30th:

1. Secure hearing room for both days from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.
2. Secure hearing stenographer, 24 hour service, to commence at 1:00 p.m., October 29th and to conclude October 30th at 5:00 p.m. Hearing stenographer must be able to provide 24-hour transcription.
3. Files must be readied for the following:
 - (a) Evangelical Press
 - (b) Harrisburger Hotel
 - (c) York
 - (d) GEM Building

A complete copy of each file should be made for the following persons: The General Counsel, the Minority Counsel, the Chairman, and the Minority Chairman.

These files should include all correspondence and other documents in the files of the Department of Property and Supplies.

4. Subpoenas should be prepared for:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>TUES. 1:00 PM</i> | Frank C. Hilton | 3 - Edward Seladones |
| | John L. Binswanger | Robert L. Richey |
| | Charles Adler, II | Wayne Titus |
| <i>TUES. 1:30 PM</i> | William Zurrich | 2 - C. L. Bennett |
| | Eli Kramer | 1 - William Carr <i>E. Kraour</i> |
| <i>TUES. 10 AM</i> | Maurice K. Goddard | 4 - H. Scott Warrick |
- > Harrisburg*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

MEMO

SUBJECT: Information

TO: All members of the Select Committee Pursuant to House Res. #98

FROM: Jeff Hammett

Please find the attached correspondence for your information.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

MEMO

SUBJECT: Request for Information

TO: Governor Milton J. Shapp

FROM: Edward Hussie, Assistant Chief Counsel, House of Representatives EH

In paragraph (3) of the attached letter written by Ronald Lench to Rep. Patrick Gleason, reference is made to "ground rules" outlined to the House Liquor Control Committee.

I have been asked by Rep. Gleason for a copy of these "ground rules". I am somewhat confused by the request. To ensure that I accurately comply, will you please furnish me in writing what you remember to be the rules you laid down in relationship to the on-going work of the Liquor Control Committee.

I have promised to forward this information to Rep. Gleason by the close of business, Friday, October 26. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
HARRISBURG

RONALD G. LENCH
SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

October 23, 1973

Honorable Patrick A. Gleason
B-10 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Representative Gleason:

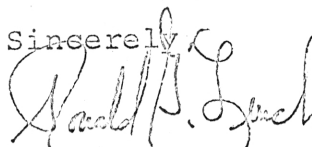
The Governor has recently learned from various Department Heads that by letter dated September 7, 1973, you requested "... information concerning the maintenance and services (power, light, janitorial, etc.) that are the responsibility of the leasee and are contracted and paid from your budget. Please cover in your reply Fiscal Years 1971-72, 1972-73 and to date 1973-74."

In order that these requests and any future correspondence may be processed expeditiously, the Governor has requested that the Office of Administration, utilizing its various Departmental Comptrollers, serve in a coordinating capacity concerning any information or questions.

We will provide any specific information to your Committee under the "ground rules" as outlined by the Governor to the House Liquor Control Committee. Since all legislative committees now have adequate staff available, we will certainly cooperate with them in coordinating times and places where the information may be looked at.

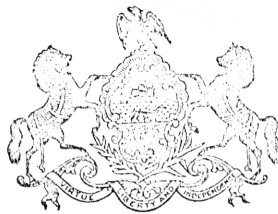
If you have any questions concerning this, please contact me and possibly we can have a brief meeting to discuss the entire situation.

Sincerely,



RONALD G. LENCH

RGL/kav



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 23, 1974

Mr. Ronald G. Lench
Secretary of Administration
Governor's Office
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Lench:

I have your letter of October 23, 1973.

The position which the Governor's Office has taken to the requests of the Select Committee for information from legislatively-created departments of state government is most unusual.

In order that the questions which I and other committee members have regarding your letter, I invite you to appear personally before the Select Committee, in executive session, on Monday, October 29, 1973, in Room 401, Capitol Building, at 11:00 A.M.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick A. Gleason".

PATRICK A. GLEASON
Chairman

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A FEW SHORT MINUTES TODAY IN ORDER TO GIVE MY VIEWS REGARDING THE PURPOSES AND WORKINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE TO THE CHAIRMAN AS WELL AS OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

THIS COMMITTEE WAS FORMED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 98 FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING THE CONTRACT PRACTICES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ON JULY 25, 1973. THE COMMITTEE HAS GONE FULL CIRCLE IN ITS INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES SINCE WE INITIALLY CENTERED OUR ATTENTION ON THE CONTRACTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH, A LEGITIMATE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, MORE RECENTLY, THE COMMITTEE HAS FOUND IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE RE-HASH THE POSSIBILITY OF CRIMINALITY IN VARIOUS COUNTIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH. I DO NOT FEEL THAT THIS IS A LEGITIMATE FUNCTION OF THIS COMMITTEE UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 98.

THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS AVAILABLE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REGARDING IRREGULARITIES IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOR OVER ONE YEAR. SINCE THIS INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE TO

THIS COMMITTEE, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THIS COMMITTEE HAS WAITED UNTIL LATE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL TO BEGIN INVESTIGATIONS OF THE SITUATION. WE HAVE UNCOVERED NO NEW INFORMATION WHICH WOULD CAUSE US TO TAKE THE TACTIC OF PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING THESE IRREGULARITIES. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY HAD MADE THE DECISION THAT THESE CASES COULD NOT BE PROSECUTED DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE. IS IT OUR FUNCTION TO UN-SURP THE JUDICIARY PROCESS AND ATTEMPT TO HAVE INDIVIDUALS INDICTED BASED ON OUR FINDINGS?

WHAT I AM LEADING UP TO IS THE REAL PURPOSE OF THIS COMMITTEE; WHY WE ARE BEGINNING HEARINGS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR RATHER THAN ONE YEAR AGO WHEN THIS INFORMATION WE ARE USING NOW IN PUBLIC HEARINGS WAS AVAILABLE? I THINK THE ANSWER IS VERY CLEAR TO EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM. THIS IS A PARTISAN POLITICAL ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT A DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. IF WRONG DOING HAS BEEN COMMITTED, IT SHOULD BE UNCOVERED AND PUNISHED. I AM NOT CONDOMING ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, I DO NOT FEEL THAT IF THE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH AS WELL AS ITS CITIZENS, THEN THIS INFORMATION SHOULD

HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE PUBLIC IN THE MANNER OF PUBLIC HEARINGS PRIOR TO AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1974. AS I HAVE STATED BEFORE, THIS INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE LONG AGO AND IS NOW BEING USED FOR PARTISAN POLITICAL PURPOSES. WE HAVE UNCOVERED NOTHING NEW, THIS IS PURELY A DUPLICATION OF THE EFFORTS OF BOTH THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S EXISTING REPORTS.

IF THIS COMMITTEE IS LEGITIMATELY INTERESTED IN THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN HOUSE RESOLUTION 98, THEN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION COULD HAVE BEEN BASED ON THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORTS, SINCE THIS INFORMATION UNCOVERED PRACTICES WHICH MIGHT BE LIMITED BY LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE SEES FIT TO AIR THIS TYPE OF EVIDENCE IN PUBLIC IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT THE PRESENT DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION. IN ESSENCE, THESE HEARINGS ARE PURELY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES AND NOT IN THE LEGITIMATE INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA. HAD THIS COMMITTEE FELT THAT ITS PROCEEDINGS WERE FOR THE INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH, PUBLIC HEARINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN HELD LONG AGO.

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN.

We are releasing today the transcripts of a 60-second tape that the House Republican public relations office has been making available to radio stations across the State for the last 24 hours. This tape is clearly only the first in a series of such broadcasts planned by the Republicans for the days and weeks ahead. In our judgment, it strips away another layer of the already thin facade of legitimacy that Gleason committee Republicans have been struggling to maintain.

For what the Republican PR office does in this tape is to reduce more than eight hours of sworn testimony -- much of it defamatory and incriminating, much of it conflicting and of questionable veracity -- into a 60-second statement edited by them and passed off as news. This tape is really an interpretation of lengthy and complex testimony as written and voiced by an employee of the Republican public relations office, although he does not clearly identify himself as such. Note that the word "Republican" appears nowhere on the tape.

Unlike an elected official, this public relations staffer has no accountability to the public for his statements. Unlike a professional journalist, he has no claim to impartiality.

Obviously, the Republican public relations machinery has been geared up to exploit portions of the public testimony for their political advantage. This raises the question of whether political tapes -- and not corrective legislation -- are really the intended fruits of this committee's work.

We can only wonder whether the American people would have placed their confidence in the House Judiciary Committee in Washington had it systematically produced tapes reflecting the majority's view of the investigation for daily broadcast by the news media.

We urge Chairman Gleason to restore some semblance of credibility and legitimacy to this committee by ordering a stop to the blatant use of selected portions of its public hearings for campaign fodder. We have confidence that the members of the press who are covering the hearings will report them fully and fairly to the people of this State. We have confidence that the press corps will bring out the significant nuances and conflicts in the testimony as well as its general thrust. We have confidence that newsmen who cannot cover the hearings but who call Republican and Democratic Committee members alike and interview them will get a fair picture of what has transpired.

TRANSCRIPT OF "HARRISBURG CALLING" TAPE ON THE GLEESON HEARINGS--Weds. Aug. 21,

This is "Harrisburg Calling." The following report on the Select House Committee on State Contract Practices is for use Wednesday, August 21st, and Thursday, August 22nd. It runs approximately 60 seconds and will be replaced Thursday at 2 p.m. It begins in 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 . . .

A Westmoreland County highway contractor has charged that he was assessed more than \$500 by the Democratic Party in 1971. The first witness to appear before a House committee investigating State contract practices, Walter Sigfried of Irwin, said he was later replaced by another contractor, who State Auditor General Robert P. Casey later charged had been paid more than \$10,000 for rental equipment which was never used.

Sigfried said he was called into the Greensburg Highway Maintenance Shed, and told he was being assessed 3% of his previous year's earnings. Sigfried said he was under the distinct impression that if he did not pay the assessment, the equipment that he had leased to the state for the previous 13 years would not be leased again.

He said he made the payment, but that he did still not receive a new contract. Instead, he said his equipment was replaced by that of James L. Brown of Sutersville, another equipment contractor.

This is Eric Bugel reporting for the House Public Information Office in Harrisburg.
[phonetic]

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[The House Public Information Office is the public relations office for the Republicans in the House of Representatives. The Telephone Number for "Harrisburg Calling" is 783-8510.]

Statement By Rep. Harry Comer on behalf of Democratic Members of the
House Select Committee on State Contract Practices

October 24, 1974

Democratic members of the Gleason committee today supported a bi-partisan motion to adjourn until November 7 because of the increasingly political atmosphere generated by the approaching elections. We agree with Rep. Benjamin Wilson, R-Bucks, who offered the adjournment motion, that this committee's work is not finished, and we will be prepared to resume public hearings when we return to Harrisburg after this brief recess.

Having supported Mr. Wilson's motion to do what we could to reduce political influence on this committee's work, we were deeply dismayed and disturbed that another majority member of the committee took it upon himself to release to the press without committee authorization raw files that tend to defame and degrade individuals.

We regard this act as usurping the committee's assigned task of evaluating these files of unsworn, unproven, and in some cases even unsigned statements through the holding of public hearings where those making the allegations can be questioned by the elected members. Worse, we regard it as a repugnant violation of the civil rights of the individual involved.

We would point out that the statements released today are of the same sort that past public hearings have proven to be of dubious accuracy. Majority counsel's interpretation of what witnesses said, as summarized in these statements, has been shown time and time again to be, at best, inaccurate, and at worst, seriously distorted. This is a calculated move to take advantage of the press for the political gain of Republican candidates without a thought to its impact on the lives of those it will hurt.

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JOHN W. McILVAINE

ATTORNEY AT LAW

9 E. BEAU ST. - WASHINGTON, PA. 15301

PHONE: 412
WASHINGTON 225-4730
WAYNESBURG 627-6230

September 6, 1974

Patrick Gleason, Chairman
Select Committee on State Contract Practices
Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Penna. 17120


Dear Sir,

Your telegram of September 5, 1974 has been received by my clients, Eleanor Paroda and Mark Shultz.

Please be advised that they will not accept your invitation unless they each receive and have a chance to review any and all evidence, testimony and statements that may tend to degrade, defame or incriminate them, along with the names and addresses of any person giving any such statements or testimony. Further, before my clients will consider coming before your body, they must have the right of cross examination under oath of any witnesses who either did or will testify or give any statements against either of my clients.

Please advise me when or if the foregoing conditions can be met, and I shall then let you know our position.

Very Truly Yours,


John W. McIlvaine

JWM/sm