



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY AND SUPPLIES
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 10, 1974

Honorable Patrick A. Gleason
Chairman, Select Committee on
State Contract Practices
B-10 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Representative Gleason:

On October 8, 1974 at 2:50PM I was served with a subpoena, signed by you and returnable today October 10, 1974 at 11:00AM.

This is the second subpoena you have had served on me since I took office less than a month ago. The last one was returnable in less than twenty-four hours.

In my letter to you of September 25, 1974 I stated that as a former legislator I thought it improper "for a legislative committee to give a Department less than 24 hours to answer a subpoena." I also stated that "I personally and my Department in general have every intention of cooperating with your committee providing that requests made of the Department are reasonable and within the normal bounds of common courtesy."

I do not think this subpoena meets this standard. Less than two days is also not sufficient time for a legislative committee to give a Department to answer a subpoena.

Nevertheless, this time I have decided to ignore the discourtesy and answer the subpoena within the time frame you have set. Therefore, attached are

copies of all the documents I have which were requested by the subpoena.

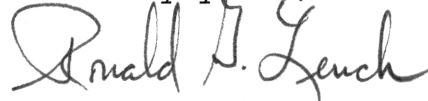
So that there will be no possibility of misunderstanding between us, let me state my position with regard to requests for information by your committee:

(1) It is unnecessary for your Committee to serve subpoenas on me or other personnel of this Department for any public records maintained by the Department. If you have any requests for information, please contact me directly and I will make certain that you get the information as soon as possible.

(2) If you see fit to issue subpoenas despite what I have just stated, I insist that you provide the Department and myself with a reasonable time within which to answer.

(3) Let me serve notice here and now that I will not tolerate the misuse of the powers of the committee by the majority members intent upon disrupting the operations of the Department of Property and Supplies by means of politically inspired, headline grabbing subpoenas. If you want information, ask and it will be supplied. But to continue to abuse the legislative subpoena power for political ends subverts our system of government and is unacceptable to the people of Pennsylvania and to me.

Sincerely yours,



Ronald G. Lench