

PATRICK A. GLEASON, MEMBER
636 MAIN STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15901



COMMITTEES
GAME AND FISHERIES
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 2, 1974

Honorable Milton J. Shapp
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Shapp:

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits.

On September 30, 1974 Anthony Altavilla testified before our Committee. Mr. Altavilla admitted, under oath, that he was in fact a party to the lie which former Secretary of Property & Supplies Frank C. Hilton perpetrated upon the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at his press conference on July 2, 1974.

Specifically, Mr. Altavilla admitted that he arranged and attended a meeting in Wilkes-Barre, at which meeting were present Walter S. Robbins, Mr. Hilton and Mr. Altavilla. During this meeting Mr. Hilton asked for, and received, permission from Walter S. Robbins to use Robbins' name in stating that Robbins was the individual who lent Hilton the money to repay an outstanding bank loan of over \$15,000 to Keystone Bank.

Subsequent to this meeting Mr. Altavilla, pursuant to the instructions of Mr. Hilton, received an affidavit from Mr. Robbins, giving to Hilton permission to use Mr. Robbins name as described above.

Although Mr. Altavilla alleges that he had no idea that Mr. Hilton was going to lie at the July 2nd press conference, Altavilla refrained from taking any action after that press conference.

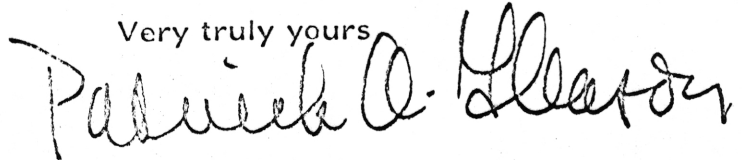
Mr. Altavilla stated that despite the fact that he was a state employee, whose salary was paid by the taxpayers of this Commonwealth, he felt no moral obligation to apprise the proper authorities that Mr. Hilton had lied both to the press and to the public.

As the above information indicates, Mr. Altavilla was an integral part to the lie foisted upon the citizens of this Commonwealth by Mr. Hilton. For more than two months after the July 2nd press conference, Mr. Altavilla lived out this lie in silence.

In view of the fact that you have, albeit reluctantly, fired Mr. Hilton for lying, it would seem consistent with your position that you also discharge Mr. Altavilla from his present employment with the Department of Property and Supplies. In truth, I am somewhat amazed that you have not already taken that action.

Mr. Altavilla, by his own admission, has disqualified himself from further service to this Commonwealth. I now call upon you to immediately remove him from his position with the Commonwealth.

Very truly yours



Patrick A. Gleason
Chairman

PAC:nlr

PATRICK A. GLEASON
CHAIRMAN



OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

SELECT COMMITTEE ON STATE CONTRACT PRACTICES

September 26, 1974

The Honorable Milton J. Shapp
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Shapp:

We just cannot understand the brazen attempt by your former Secretary of Property and Supplies, Frank C. Hilton to now use Commonwealth Court to stone-wall our Committee's effort to secure his personal testimony under oath.

Only a short time ago, public resources and staff were being deployed to attack our Committee for not allowing Frank Hilton to talk. One of your Deputy Attorneys General served Mr. Hilton in seeking Commonwealth Court support so he "could talk."

Now, with his oft-demanded appearance scheduled for Monday, September 30th, the same Frank C. Hilton is seeking to use the same Court to prevent us from hearing Frank Hilton talk. This makes no sense, and I am personally convinced that this latest tactic could only have been developed with your knowledge, or the knowledge of persons under your jurisdiction as Governor.

If my personal judgement is wrong on this, I would like you to tell me that, and to assure me that you will use the considerable influence of your office to encourage Frank C. Hilton to talk on schedule.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick A. Gleason".

Patrick A. Gleason
Chairman
Select Committee on
State Contract Practices

PAG:SFF:bb

PATRICK A. GLEASON
CHAIRMAN



OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

SELECT COMMITTEE ON STATE CONTRACT PRACTICES

September 19, 1974

Honorable Milton J. Shapp
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Shapp:

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits.

Enclosed is a Subpoena Duces Tecum requiring production of copies of your personal Federal Income Tax returns for the years 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969. The Committee is willing to abide by the compromise which is currently in effect concerning your tax returns for the years 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973.

Please advise me by Monday, September 23, 1974 at 11:00 o'clock a.m., whether you are willing to give to this Committee access to your Federal Income Tax returns for the years 1966 through 1969, inclusive, in the same manner as we have agreed upon concerning your Federal and State Income Tax returns for the years 1970 through 1973 inclusive.

Should you be unwilling to accept this compromise for your tax returns of these four additional years, please note that the enclosed subpoena is returnable on Monday, September 23, 1974 at 11:00 o'clock a.m.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

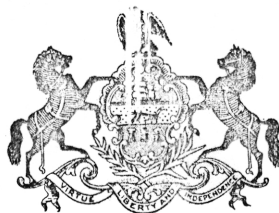
Very truly yours,

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

Patrick A. Gleason
Chairman

PAG:nlr

PATRICK A. GLEASON
CHAIRMAN



OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
SELECT COMMITTEE ON STATE CONTRACT PRACTICES

September 11, 1974

Honorable Milton J. Shapp
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Shapp:

I am in receipt of your letter of September 11, 1974 rejecting the compromise which the Committee authorized me to propose on September 5, 1974 with respect to this Committee's request for your federal and state tax returns for the years 1970 through 1973. I must reject, once again, the counter-proposal which you offer on page 2 of your letter. As you are certainly aware this compromise has been rejected as unacceptable by the Committee, and you and your attorneys have been so informed.

Over five weeks have passed since this Committee first asked for these materials. We have attempted to accommodate you in good faith, but we can wait no longer.

With this letter today, I am asking members of the staff to serve the subpoena which was initially authorized on August 19, 1974. It is returnable Monday, September 16, 1974.

The Committee, of course, remains willing to act on the basis of the compromise which was voted on September 5, 1974 and which was discussed with your attorneys on August 29, 1974. So that there may be no misunderstanding about the terms of that compromise, I shall restate it here. It calls for "review, by Committee members and designated staff of your personal copies of your Federal and State income tax returns for the years indicated at a place and time to be settled by mutual agreement. Under this compromise, the Committee would not take physical possession, custody or control of your copies of your returns, but would have access to them as indicated for as long as necessary."

In addition, I believe that our Committee will support a suggestion that Committee members to be involved in an examination of these materials be limited to the Chairman and Vice Chairman with each designating a restricted number of professional staff persons to assist them.

I must admit that I am deeply disturbed that your letter today attempts once more to delay this Committee and to misstate its position. While we have every wish to protect your right of privacy in the context of this investigation - as evidenced by our compromise proposal not to take actual possession of your tax returns - I cannot help but be appalled as a citizen and as a fellow politician by your continued unwillingness to be candid and open with the public.

Moreover, you do us all a disservice--most especially the attorneys from the Committee and from your staff who met on August 29th--when you allude in the fourth paragraph on page two of your letter to a suggestion which has already been rejected as if it had not been.

You go on, in the next paragraph, to reference additional "mutually agreed upon questions." You either do not yet understand or are deliberately misstating this Committee's clear caveat to you that it is and shall continue to be the Committee through its Chairman which will be the sole judge of what is relevant to its inquiry. If we were to propound only "mutually agreed upon questions," your attorneys have made it quite clear that virtually every question of importance to the Committee would have to go unasked.

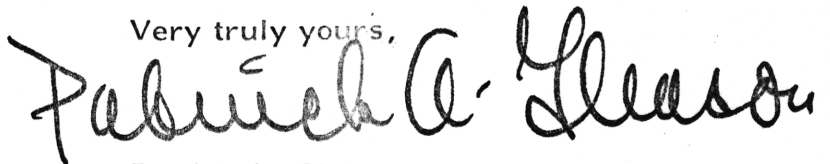
I state once more that as far as this Committee is concerned your tax returns are not an end in themselves, but only one small step, one investigative tool among many, that we wish to utilize in our investigation of the matters concerning you which we currently have underway.

I would very much appreciate it, incidentally, if you would cease in your continuing efforts to imply that this Committee did not or does not wish to have your testimony under oath on a whole range of matters. You have had my personal assurance from the outset that you would be called before the election as you wished, and that is, in fact, the case.

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Finally, please be assured that I will be happy to proceed with the Committee's authorized compromise at any time between your receipt of this letter and the return date of the subpoena which accompanies it.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick A. Gleason". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Patrick A. Gleason
Chairman

PAG;nlr



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

July 31, 1974

Honorable Milton J. Shapp
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Shapp:

Relying on your assurances to me that there is "no reason at any time to subpoena records relating to my Administration or to my personal affairs," as expressed in your letter of June 5, 1974, I now call upon you to make available to this Committee copies of all books, documents, accounts, records, indices, tapes, logs, ledgers, diaries, application forms, financing statements, profit statements and any and all other data pertaining to loan agreements between the Continental Bank, the Fidelity Bank and IVB Bank and any political committees operating on behalf of or authorized by you in your capacity as a candidate for public office or between these three banks and any committee or other organization established in furtherance of or acting in support of your candidacy for public office during the period January 1, 1966 to the present.

I would be most appreciative if this information could be in my hands by Wednesday, August 7, 1974, at 11:00 a.m.

In addition, the Committee will require all pertinent information concerning the manner in which any such loans were repaid. This information should include all data pertaining to any personal loan taken out for this purpose, any personal or political fund raising undertaken for this purpose, and any and all other activities initiated by you, or at your direction, or with your approval to repay such loans.

The Committee would also appreciate an explanation of the following sentence which appears in the financial statement made public by you and Mrs. Shapp dated December 31, 1973. That sentence reads, "Certificates of deposit of \$635,000 are pledged as collateral for loans from a bank to a third party against which \$625,000 has been provided for possible uncollectibility."



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG
These requests for information come, as I am sure you are aware, as a result of an inquiry undertaken by the Committee into the contractual relationships between these three banks and the Commonwealth, through which the banks serve as either active or inactive depositories for state monies or as transfer agents for Commonwealth general obligation bonds and tax anticipation notes. In this regard the Committee is endeavoring to determine if the banks in question have received any preferential treatment or favored status as a result of their lending practices.

Please be assured that the Committee appreciates your attention to these requests.

Very truly yours,

Patrick A. Gleason

Patrick A. Gleason
Chairman

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PAG:nlr

PATRICK A. GLEASON
CHAIRMAN



OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
SELECT COMMITTEE ON STATE CONTRACT PRACTICES

July 26, 1974

Honorable Milton J. Shapp, Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Governor:

Because of your many public assurances that your Administration is the most "open" in the history of the Commonwealth, and because of your explicit assurances to me in your letter of June 5, 1974 that there is "no reason at any time to subpoena records relating to my Administration or to my personal affairs," I now urge you to direct your State Democratic Chairman, Harvey Thiemann, to turn over to this Committee the campaign contribution records and other data which has been requested from him.

You are undoubtedly aware that Chairman Thiemann has not only irresponsibly taken it upon himself to edit the materials which he offered in response to this Committee's subpoena, but also has declined this Committee's invitation to appear before it on July 16, 1974 and then refused to answer questions concerning his failure to comply with the original subpoena duces tecum when subpoenaed to testify personally on July 24, 1974.

I cannot imagine what it is that Chairman Thiemann is attempting to hide or cover-up. I can only hope that you will exercise your influence as the man who selected Mr. Thiemann for his post and as your party's highest ranking elected State official, to convince Chairman Thiemann that his attempt to stonewall this Committee is illegal and irresponsible as well as a disservice to your party and the many fine Pennsylvanians who look to him as their political leader.

Very truly yours,

Patrick A. Gleason (e)

Patrick A. Gleason, Chairman
Select Committee on State
Contract Practices

PAG:JMW:bb

PATRICK A. GLEASON, MEMBER
636 MAIN STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15901



COMMITTEES
GAME AND FISHERIES
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

June 6, 1974

Honorable Milton J. Shapp
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

*JUNE 25-1973 - GLEASON LETTER
" 26-1973 PACKEL LETTER*

Dear Governor:

I enclose an exchange of correspondence between myself and General Packel on the matter of your use of bank money to gain nomination and election. The response, which I presume was made with your personal knowledge, is entirely unsatisfactory to me. By no stretch of the imagination will either the Legislature or the people of Pennsylvania buy the argument that the law was meant to contain a loophole for the wealthy few who can establish a line of credit at a bank.

I find the existing law to be totally binding against such a transaction, and see no need for change. I believe the use of bank loans was in violation of both the spirit and the letter of the Law, and that the act of violation directly resulted in a distortion of the 1970 Democratic Party Primary.

If your loans were in fact in accordance with law, then the law must be changed forthwith. I suggest that, if you insist that the present law includes a rich-man loophole, you immediately instruct your Attorney General to provide me with corrective language.

Until I hear from you, I shall be fully licensed to remain among the growing number of skeptics and critics on the matter.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Gleason, Member
House of Representatives

PAG/bls