



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

June 25, 1974

Staff Procedures

Honorable Patrick Gleason
Chairman, Select Committee
on Contract Practices

Honorable Harry Comer

There are a number of points and problems which I feel should be cleared up without further delay.

- (1) Staff should refrain from giving any further press releases as to the scope and content of any matters under investigation. Any contacts with the press shall be made by members of the committee.
- (2) Staff shall be staff of the committee as a whole and should be at the disposal of all members of the committee.
- (3) The minority requests that secretarial assistance and letterheads be provided to staff.
- (4) Staff should conduct themselves in a manner which would not discredit members of the House of Representatives. This includes conduct at meetings of the committee as well as investigations by staff in the field.
- (5) Supply a list of all staff members connected with the committee, their salaries and from what fund they are being paid.
- (6) Minority staff should be consulted in advance regarding future investigations. Request of minority staff shall be honored by majority staff regarding attendance and questioning of witnesses. Minority staff should have access to all new data collected by any staff member.

HARRY R. J. COMER, MEMBER
2725 NORTH FRONT STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19133

ROOM B-2 MAIN CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120



COMMITTEES

STATE GOVERNMENT, MINORITY CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMISSION ON INTERSTATE COOPERATION,
SECRETARY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

July 12, 1974

Honorable Patrick Gleason
Chairman, Select Committee on
Contract Practices
House of Representatives
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Pat:

I am in receipt of the copy of your letter of July 9, 1974, to Arlen Specter, Esquire concerning the possible employment of Mr. Specter and the Law Firm of Deckert, Price and Rhodes as consultants to the Select Committee on State Contract Practices.

Committee Rule 15 states that "all staff members shall be confirmed by a majority of the Committee". Counsel to the minority has advised me that all contracts for services to be rendered to the Committee are subject to approval by the Committee and not by a private agreement between you, the Majority Leader, Mr. Butera, and the party or parties you seek to employ.

The minority members of the Select Committee believe that we have the requisite legal expertise within the Committee staff as presently constituted to handle the matters that you would have Mr. Specter research. As you well know, the Committee already has at its disposal three former assistant district attorneys from Philadelphia who are reimbursed at the rate of \$675 per week plus expenses to assist the Committee in its deliberations. We believe that the staff members of both the Majority and Minority are as well versed in the Election Code and State Banking Codes as are any counsel in the State.

For example, Edward Hussie, Esquire of your staff wrote and handled the legislative package of eighteen election reform measures recently introduced by the Republican House Leadership. Surely, this expertise need not be wasted and surely the taxpayers' money could be better spent on other matters.

Honorable Patrick Gleason

- 2 -

July 12, 1974

I would appreciate your furnishing me with a copy of any proposed contract to be entered into between Mr. Specter, Deckert, Price and Rhodes and the Committee. The taxpayers of the State are entitled to an accounting of how their tax funds are being spent and the minority members of the Committee are entitled to know and vote upon the terms and conditions by which staff are to be retained.

Sincerely,

Harry Comer

cc: Hon. Harry Englehart
Hon. James Manderino
Hon. Benjamin Wilson
Hon. James Ustynoski
Hon. Rudolph Dininni
Bill Powell, Majority Staff
John Connelly, Jr., Minority Staff
Robert Kagen, Minority Staff
John Broujos, Minority Staff



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 3, 1974

Honorable Harry R. J. Comer
House of Representatives
Room 512, E-Floor
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Harry:

When I first read over your note to me of April 2, I must confess I was more than a little surprised at what seemed to be your complete about-face regarding our Committee's procedure.

After rereading your note, I reviewed the minutes of our Committee meetings and confirmed my recollection that, far from objecting to Committee Rules 1 and 2, you and your colleagues had joined in the unanimous vote by which they were adopted at our August 15th meeting. As a matter of fact, Harry, it was on your personal motion that Rule 2 was adopted.

With respect to the issuance of subpoenas, I can only point out that this Committee has done nothing not contemplated by the Rules of the House and clearly established legislative precedent. However, so that there will be no ambiguity concerning the matter, I will act on your suggestion and propose an amendment to House Rule 51 to clarify its language.

I know that your note was drafted and forwarded to me in good faith and that you and your colleagues would not condone any effort to obstruct or otherwise undermine our Committee's important work.

Sincerely yours,

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

PAG:JMW:bb