

(REP. PATRICK A. GLEASON OPENING REMARKS AT THE FIRST PUBLIC SESSION OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING LEASES, PURCHASES AND SALES OF STATE PROPERTIES AND SUPPLIES).

THIS SELECT COMMITTEE WAS CHARGED BY A VOTE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INVESTIGATE STATE GOVERNMENT'S LEASING, PURCHASING, AND BUILDING PROCEDURES. TODAY WE ARE MOVING INTO THE FINAL PHASE OF OUR INVESTIGATION INTO THE LEASING OF PRIVATELY OWNED BUILDINGS BY THE COMMONWEALTH.

ALTHOUGH THIS COMMITTEE WAS BORN AMID CHARGES AND COUNTER CHARGES OF POLITICAL MOTIVATION, I THINK I CAN SAFELY SAY THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SEVERAL PROCEDURAL DISAGREEMENTS, THE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY--BOTH MAJORITY AND MINORITY--HAVE WORKED CLOSELY TOGETHER TOWARD A DUAL GOAL--FINDING THE TRUE SITUATION AND DEVELOPING LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE OUR PROCEDURES AS THEY RELATE TO THIS STATE FUNCTION.

FROM TIME TO TIME WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED COMMENTS TO THE POINT THAT 'TO BE FAIR, WE SHOULD EXPAND OUR INVESTIGATION BACKWARDS, BEYOND THE DATE WHEN THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE. "

AND WE SAY THAT THERE IS EVERY POSSIBILITY--NO EVERY

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PROBABILITY--THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ABUSES IN THE PAST. BUT WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE OVERLY CONCERNED WITH THE PAST. WE MUST LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND TO THAT END PRESENT THE SITUATION AS IT IS TODAY AND DEVELOP THE CHANGES NECESSARY TO ASSURE THAT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE MAJORITY OF PENNSYLVANIANS ARE PROTECTED.

TODAY, IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO SIMPLY SAY--OR EVEN TO PROVE-- THAT YOU BELIEVE IN AND ARE WORKING FOR GOOD CLEAN GOVERNMENT.

IT IS NOT EVEN ENOUGH TO BE AN HONEST OFFICE HOLDER. MORE SO TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE A PUBLIC OFFICIAL MUST AVOID EVEN THE HINT OF WRONGDOING.

THE WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT THEREFORE MUST OF NECESSITY CONSIST OF THE ART OF BEING HONEST.

IF IT IS LESS, THEN ALL OF US MUST SHARE IN THE FAULT.

IF IT IS LESS I MUST SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY, BECAUSE I AM NOT DOING MY JOB.

IF IT IS LESS, THE MEDIA MUST SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY

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BECAUSE ITS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE NOT DONE THEIR JOB.

IF IT IS LESS, THE PUBLIC MUST SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE IT HAS ACCEPTED SOMETHING LESS THAN IT SHOULD DEMAND.

DURING THE PAST YEAR THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS SITUATIONS DEVELOP THAT MORE THAN JUST HINTED AT IMPROPRIETY.

I'M NOT SPEAKING OF CRIMINAL WRONGDOING IN THE LEGALLY ACCEPTED SENSE OF THE WORD, BUT RATHER OF SITUATIONS WHICH TEND TO FURTHER BLACKEN THE REPUTATIONS OF ALL THOSE MEN WHO SEEK AND HOLD POSITIONS OF TRUST IN GOVERNMENT.

GOVERNOR SHAPP HAS EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN WHICH WE ARE INTERESTED AND WE WILL WELCOME HIS PARTICIPATION.

ONLY THROUGH OPEN AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS CAN WE EXPECT TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF REGAINING THE PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE IN US AND IN OUR INSTITUTIONS.

WE WILL INVITE THE GOVERNOR TO MEET WITH US AT ONE OF OUR

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FUTURE SESSIONS.

BUT TODAY WE ARE GOING TO BE TALKING WITH MESSERS. ROBERT L. RICHEY AND WAYNE B. TITUS, PRINCIPALS IN THE CORPORATION WHICH IS LEASING THE FORMER HARRISBURGER HOTEL TO THE COMMONWEALTH, AND WITH PROPERTY AND SUPPLIES SECRETARY FRANK C. HILTON AND HIS DEPUTY SECRETARY CHARLES ADLER.

SHALL WE BEGIN: