

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES - November 16, 1977 Meeting

PRESENT

Frank P. Reiche, Chairman
Sidney Goldmann, Vice-Chairman
Josephine S. Margetts, Member
Archibald S. Alexander, Member
Lewis B. Thurston, III, Executive Director
Edward J. Farrell, Legal Counsel
Herbert Alexander, Consultant
Neil Upmeyer, Director of Public Financing

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law, P. L. 1975, c.231, annual notice of the meetings of the Commission, as amended, was filed with the Secretary of State's office, copies were posted in the State House Annex, copies were mailed to the Newark Star Ledger and the Philadelphia Bulletin and the entire State House Press Corps.

The meeting convened at 10:15 a.m.

1. Certification of Public Matching Funds to Gubernatorial Candidates Bateman and Byrne

The director of public financing presented the staff recommendations and summary of the contributions received in the latest submission. After a review of this data relative to Senator Bateman, the Commission, on a motion by Commissioner Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Margetts, voted 4-0 to certify \$26,214.74 in public matching funds to the Bateman Campaign. On a motion by Chairman Reiche, seconded by Vice-Chairman Goldmann, the Commission voted 4-0 to certify \$33,401 in public matching funds to Governor Byrne's campaign.

2. Self-Assessment of E.L.E.C. Election Role

The Commission briefly discussed its role in the election campaign for Governor just concluded. It was agreed that as part of the Commission evaluation of the public financing experience that representatives of both the Bateman and Byrne campaigns and the Republican and Democratic State Committee be invited to a Commission meeting to give the Commission their comments and suggestions regarding the public financing statute, regulations and the procedures and activities of the Commission.

3. Report on Reform Commissions National Steering Committee's Proposal

The Chairman reported that the Steering committee of the national reform commission group on which he serves, has agreed on a provision to be submitted to the full conference at its annual meeting in December, 1977 regarding the formation of a more formal type of organization of these various reform commissions.

He reported briefly on the content of the proposal.

4. Monitoring Post-Election Fund-raising

The executive director reported regarding conversations that he and the director of public financing have had with the Byrne for Governor Committee representatives in reference to the proposed inaugural activities for Governor Byrne. He also indicated that he had received a letter from Robert Raymar purporting to set forth the substance of a conversation that the executive director and director of public financing had with Judd Levy, Treasurer of the Byrne for Governor Committee regarding inaugural activities. Mr. Thurston indicated that there were a number of errors in the letter regarding what was represented to Mr. Levy and indicated that he felt it was appropriate that a written response be conveyed to Mr. Raymar immediately. It was agreed that Mr. Raymar's letter did not constitute a formal advisory opinion request. The Commission discussed a number of hypothetical situations regarding inaugural-type activities and the appropriate ways they should be handled regarding bank accounts, representations to contributors, etc. It was agreed that Mr. Thurston would immediately direct a letter to Mr. Raymar conveying the substance of the Commission's discussion in an attempt to assist those planning the inaugural activities, recognizing that such a letter would not be an advisory opinion in response to any specific request setting forth certain facts.

5. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LEWIS B. THURSTON, III
Executive Director