

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

MARCH 15, 1978 Meeting

PRESENT

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

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. Personnel Action

Executive Director reported that Deputy Attorney General Gregory Nagy had accepted the Commission offer to become staff counsel to the Commission and is anticipated to be able to start in early April.

2. Current Litigation

On a motion by Chairman Reiche, seconded by Commissioner Alexander, the Commission went into executive session to discuss the current litigation involved in New Jersey Chamber of Commerce et al vs. Election Law Enforcement Commission et al. At the conclusion of the discussion, on a motion by Chairman Reiche, seconded by Commissioner Alexander, the Commission returned to public session. Both motions were by votes of 4-0.

On a motion by Chairman Reiche, seconded by Commissioner Alexander, the Commission voted 4-0 to extend the date for filing of the 1977 annual reports of political information organizations which expended more than \$750 in lobbying activity in calendar year 1977 from May 1 to December 31, 1978 because of the substantial administrative burdens and difficulties to which persons subject to filing and the Commission staff would be subjected to meet the May 1 deadline in view of the continuing litigation in New Jersey Chamber of Commerce et al vs. New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission et al, now on appeal to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

The motion also directed the Executive Director to disseminate as widely as possible this information by means of press release and, if possible, through the New Jersey Law Journal and New Jersey Register. The Commission indicated its concern that persons subject to filing maintain records for 1977 for use in filing reports.

On a motion by Chairman Reiche, seconded by Commissioner Margetts, the Commission voted 4-0 to return to the executive session to further discuss the litigation in the Chamber of Commerce case. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commission returned to public session.

3. ELEC Fiscal 1979 Budget

The Chairman and Executive Director reported that later in the day on March 15th they and Vice Chairman Goldmann would appear before the Joint Appropriations Committee of the Legislature on the Commission's 1979 appropriation request and recommendations of the Governor.

4. Designation of Treasurer and Campaign Depository for 1978 for Political Information Organizations

On a motion by Vice Chairman Goldmann, seconded by Chairman Reiche, the Commission voted 4-0 to extend the filing deadline for designations of campaign treasurer and depository for 1978 for political information organizations from March 31 until November 30, 1978. This is consistent with the Commission action taken previously at this meeting extending the date for 1977 annual reports of such organizations from May 1st to December 31st, 1978.

5. Evaluation of ELEC by Dr. Herbert E. Alexander, Commission Consultant

Dr. Alexander outlined and summarized his recommendations in the evaluation of the Commission he undertook at the Commission's direction and request. An extensive discussion of the evaluation by members of the Commission, staff and Dr. Alexander ensued. There was general agreement regarding many of the recommendations contained in the evaluation and it is anticipated that those will be implemented. The Chairman thanked Dr. Alexander for his efforts in this evaluation and generally for the Commission.

6. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



LEWIS B. THURSTON, III  
Executive Director

LBT/cn