

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING

DECEMBER 12, 1973

1. The next meeting will be January 9, 1974.
2. Plainfield complaint. The date of the hearing will be selected at the Commission meeting of January 9.
3. The second Salkind complaint. The date of the hearing will be selected at the Commission meeting of January 9.
4. Somerset Civil Service. The date of the hearing will be selected at the Commission meeting of January 9.
5. Hearing Examiners. Potential candidates will be contacted by telephone by Mr. Farrell, Mr. Reiche, Mr. Norcross and Judge Goldman. With each of the contactors submitting their list of individuals who agreed to serve the Commission.
6. Late filers. Those not responding to our initial letter will be directed to appear on January 9, 1974, but without subpoena.
7. Non-filers. We must evaluate responses (both telephone and written) to determine who needs to be summoned to appear before the Commission. At the January 9 meeting, we must decide whether to subpoena or direct to appear or dispose of the matter with an admonition and reprimand. Farrell to supply language.
8. The Commission decided by vote of 3-0 that it would accept certifications by candidates in lieu of affidavits in explanatory letters.
9. Late explanations already received. The Commission decided that each explanation would have to be evaluated on its own merit. It was suggested by Mr. Farrell that in the case of individuals who were a day or two late because they had relied on the mails, that we advise them that their return was late and that the use of the mails could not, in our experience, be relied upon to effect delivery in one day from all points in New Jersey, and that the Commission's interpretation of the law was such that the use of the mails was not sufficient to insure timely filing.
10. Municipal non-filers. It was estimated by the Executive Director that this list could include as many as 1,500 people. The Commission decided by a vote of 3-0 to contact each individual who had missed any filing date, but to include in the notification letter that the candidate, if he did not expend more than \$1,000 and did not receive any contributions in excess of \$100, might so state and certify as to the truthfulness of the statement. This certification to be utilized in lieu of affidavit.

The Commission by a vote of 3-0, authorized the Executive Director to hire additional help for the purpose of processing the municipal non-filer notifications and responses.

11. Recommended changes in the Act were discussed and it was decided that by early Spring the Commission will have formulated its recommended changes in the Act; suggested amendments will be made available to all legislators.

13. Victor Walcoff was suggested as a contact for finding an auditor from Philadelphia to audit gubernatorial filings. Several possible candidates in New Jersey have been either rejected by the Commission or have refused the job because of potential conflicts of interest with existing clients.
14. Anonymous complaint - Re: Freeholder Nero of Somerset County. The Executive Director explained that he had verified the existence of the contributor and the amount in Mr. Nero's campaign fund and suggested that he would check the existence of a subsequent/^{governmental} contract with the contributor. Upon finding the existence of such a contract, the Executive Director will turn the matter over to the Somerset County Prosecutor.
15. Permanent Auditor for the Commission - The Executive Director will identify the two top candidates who will be asked to be present in the Commission offices on the afternoon of January 9, 1973, for an interview with the Commissioners.
16. Assemblyman Rizzolo's Letter - See previous item re: suggested statutory amendments for Chapter 83 of the Laws of 1973.
17. With respect to the delivery of school board filings to the Commission. Judge Goldman suggested that the State Police be requested to assist in pick-up from the Clerk's Office and delivery to this office. (Note: Walter Halpin, County Clerk of Union County, recommended that the County Superintendents supply a driver to bring the forms from the Clerk's office to Commission offices in Trenton.)
18. Judge Goldman suggested the preparation of a press release prior to March 1, to remind political information organizations and political organizations of their obligation to file on March 1. In this connection, Chairman Reiche inquired as to form revisions for the purpose of the School Board filing.
19. DeVizio - Mr. DeVizio will be given until January 9, 1974, to pay his fine at which time the matter should be brought to the attention of the Commission.