



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES

**STATE HOUSE STATION 101
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333**

July 24th, 1991

Minutes of the July 24th, 1991 meeting of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices held in the council room of Auburn City Hall.

Present: Chairman Paul K. McCann; Members Henry G. Beyer, Joseph B. Ezhaya, Richard L. Trafton

Absent: Members Gregory G. Cyr, Richard H. Pierce, Paul E. Violette; Commission Counsel William R. Stokes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCann at 12:20 p.m. The first item considered was the request of Senator Bonnie Titcomb and Representative Annette Hoglund for advice concerning the propriety of their accepting an invitation from the American Petroleum Institute (API) to attend an educational gathering in Alaska from July 28th-30th, 1991. The invitation included an offer to reimburse the Legislators for travel, room, and board.

Mr. Trafton moved that staff convey to the Legislators that the Commission found no conflict in the situation presented, but that it deemed the trip a gift that is reportable on annual sources of income statements. Staff was also directed to send to the Legislators a copy of the opinion rendered by Assistant Attorney General William Stokes.

Mr. Beyer seconded the motion. Further discussion of the matter focused on the legislative ethics laws, API's lobbyist disclosure file, certain carryover bills, and the memorandum from Commission Counsel.

The motion then passed unanimously.

The Commission then turned to the question of how the Commission could best expedite Legislator's requests for advisory opinions in the future. Staff was directed to request an opinion from Commission Counsel concerning the legality of the Commission's reviewing requests for advisory opinions by conference call.

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Next, the Director presented a comparison analysis of 1990-91 and 1992-93 Legislative appropriations to the Commission.

There followed a discussion of the Commission's 1991 bill to amend campaign financing. Mr. McCann said he planned to meet with Speaker Martin to suggest that the Commission be represented on the proposed commission to study campaign reporting laws.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Canavan, Director