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(HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania)- Budget negotiators are meeting again today at the Statehouse in Harrisburg to try to reach final compromise on a new state budget.

The General Assembly and the administration face a midnight Friday deadline to have a spending plan in place for the 1989-90 fiscal year.

All sides in the closed-door talks say they are nearing final agreement.

Governor Casey told reporters he is hopeful a deal will soon be struck but added there is still a lot of talking to go.

Negotiators are expected to come up with a general fund state budget totaling somewhere around 11-point-seven-BILLION dollars. NO change in tax rates is anticipated.

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AP-PA-Bill Signing

(HARRISBURG) -- governor robert casey today signed bills keeping alive the state ethics commission and the state civil service commission.

casey signed the bills during a brief ceremony in the governor's reception room -- just days before the two agencies were scheduled to go out of business. both laws are effective immediately.

the first reauthorizes the state ethics commission for 10 more years and toughens the law that governs the conduct of legislators and public officials.

it would for the first time define conflict of interest. it would also restrict severance agreements and ban legislators from accepting fees for appearances.

casey said having clear ethics rules and guidelines is important to make sure everyone in government will honestly serve taxpayers.

under the second law -- the civil service commission -- which oversees the hiring and promotion of 68-thousand state employees -- will be kept alive for seven more years.

the proposal will give commissioners more authority to become involved in the day-to-day operations of the agency and give them a boost in their annual salaries. it also clearly defines permissible political activities for civil service employees.

casey said the law was vital to preserve about four (B) billion dollars in federal funding.

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Eds: Moved in advance for Sunday editions June 25 and after.  
An AP News Analysis  
By DAVID MORRIS  
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG (AP) - First, there was Watergate, the scandal that drove Richard Nixon from the White House in disgrace.

Now, there is what The New Republic magazine cleverly calls Atwatergate, the scandal Democrats hope will drive Lee Atwater from his job as chairman of the national Republican Party.

In Pennsylvania and elsewhere, the Democrats are calling for Atwater's resignation on the basis of a recent Republican National Committee statement that implied House Speaker Tom Foley was a homosexual. The committee's communications director resigned in the fallout over the statement, but Atwater stayed on after convincing President Bush he wasn't aware of its contents.

That wasn't good enough for many Democrats. State Democratic Chairman Larry Yatch, for example, said Atwater should resign because he was no doubt responsible for the smear. If Atwater didn't know about it, Yatch said, he should have.

To Yatch and other Democrats, the Republican maneuver was mudslinging, and they complained that such activity has no place in modern American politics.

There is nothing wrong with the thesis. Mudslinging shouldn't have a place in politics. But it does, it has for a long time, and Republicans don't have exclusive rights to the practice.

In fact, it's downright laughable the way Pennsylvania Democrats portray themselves as white knights in calling for their GOP counterparts to stop playing dirty. That's like Willie Sutton saying people shouldn't rob banks, or Gaylord Perry saying another pitcher cheats by throwing spitballs.

In case you've forgotten, Democrats didn't say a word about mudslinging in 1986 when many observers believe Robert P. Casey beat Republican William W. Scranton III on the strength of a last-minute television ad. The so-called guru ad outlined Scranton's involvement with transcendental meditation and left an impression, through pictures of a bearded, long-haired Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, that TM was something unseemly and perhaps illegal.

Scranton campaign insiders said the ad and its misconceptions kept many rural, conservative Republicans at home and, by default, allowed Casey to win a tight race.

Now if one misleading political statement that borders on a personal attack - the statement about Foley - is mudslinging, then so was the guru ad. If the first was wrong, then so was the second.

In life, you can't start a war, then claim to be pacifist.

In politics, you can't throw the first handful of mud at your opponent, then cry foul when he fires slime back at you.

As the 1990 elections grow closer, the political warriors have two choices. They can call a truce and campaign on a higher plane or let the mud fly in both directions.

You might as well start looking for cover.

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(David Morris has reported from Harrisburg since 1983.)

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PM-PA-BRF--Capitol-Tax,xxx

HARRISBURG (AP) - A state House committee today approved a bill that would place a tax on paint to fund a lead poisoning program.

The House Health and Welfare Committee unanimously approved the measure, which would add a one-half percent tax on paint. The vote came after the panel rejected an amendment to strip the tax provision and fund the lead program through the general fund.

The program would be operated by the Department of Health and would periodically screen children under five years old.

Lead poisoning has been shown to cause stunted growth and other health problems in children.

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PM-PA-Bill Signing, Bjt,420  
Casey Signs Bills Reauthorizing Commissions  
By ANNE McGRAW  
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG (AP) - Just days before two state agencies were scheduled to go out of existence, Gov. Robert P. Casey signed legislation keeping them alive for at least seven more years.

Casey on Monday signed bills renewing the State Ethics Commission and the Civil Service Commission, saying the legislation will improve the operations of both agencies. Both laws are effective immediately.

The first reauthorizes the State Ethics Commission for 10 more years and toughens the law that governs the conduct of legislators and public officials. Casey last year vetoed another ethics bill because he said it weakened the ethics law.

"Having clear rules and guidelines is vital to making sure that everyone in government will honestly and independently serve the taxpayers of this state," Casey said. "That they will be trusted servants for public good, not private profit, and that they will not use their positions of public responsibility to enrich themselves."

The law defines conflict of interest for the first time, restricts severance agreements and bans legislators from accepting fees for appearances. It also restricts public officials from using their offices for personal or family gain and protects employees who report wrongdoing.

John Contino, executive director of the Ethics Commission, said commission members will meet within the next few weeks to consider how to handle changes created by the new law.

After Casey's veto, the commission continued to receive complaints but did not start new investigations.

"With the reauthorization, obviously we'll now go back to operating in a more normal fashion," Contino said. "We have a lot of work to do."

Under the second law, the Civil Service Commission, which oversees the hiring and promotion of 68,000 state employees, will be kept alive for seven more years.

Casey said the new law was needed to ensure the state received about \$4 billion in federal funding.

"This bill preserves the integrity of civil service to ensure that people's public business is conducted fairly, impartially and without political interference," Casey said.

Therese L. Mitchell, who heads the commission, said she is relieved the future of the commission is guaranteed for another seven years.

"It's been very stressful," she said.

"The bill re-emphasizes our main purpose, which is to promote efficiency and economy in government," she said. "During the past couple years that's been put on the back burner. Now we'll work with state government rather than be a separate entity."

Ms. Mitchell said the commission will begin informing employees of the changes affecting political activities.

AP-NY-06-27-89 0142EDT+

## On ethics: A stronger bill signed, a commission saved

By Jodi Enda  
Inquirer Harrisburg Bureau

**HARRISBURG** — With just five days to spare before the state Ethics Commission was to die, Gov. Casey yesterday signed an ethics bill that breathes new life into the commission and holds public officials to some higher standards of behavior. Casey signed the bill in an upbeat ceremony punctuated by repeated applause, a contrast to the day six months ago when he vetoed an earlier ethics bill that he called "weakened" and "ill-advised."

The governor praised the legislature for returning to him a new bill that he said would bring public confidence in government. The law outlines acceptable and unacceptable standards of behavior for public officials and reauthorizes the commission for 10 years.

"This is an important day in the public history of Pennsylvania," Casey said, "because having rules and guidelines for official conduct is vital to making sure that every person in the government will honestly and independently serve the taxpayers of

this state."

Since Casey vetoed that earlier ethics bill, the legislature drafted a new one that bans public officials from accepting money for speaking engagements, makes it more difficult for them to receive gifts from special interests and prohibits them from using their positions to financially help a greater number of relatives.

The new law does not contain a controversial provision from the vetoed bill that would have made it legal for public officials to hire their relatives. However, it does not specif-

ically ban such hiring, and some legislators disagree about the effect. "No law, of course, can guarantee the honesty and integrity of every single person who works in government," Casey said yesterday, "but this law can and does create clearer guidelines and stricter rules and stronger enforcement by the state Ethics Commission. It is a giant step forward."

The governor said that the new law "is not perfect," but he declined to elaborate.

"The law preserves what's best

about our current ethics law and at the same time goes even further," Casey said. "It prohibits state and local officials from using their offices to benefit themselves or their family members. It makes Pennsylvania one of only two states in the country to ban speaking fees paid by private groups to public officials."

He said the law represented "a very strong contrast to all we've heard about in Washington these days."

State Rep. Kevin Blaum, prime sponsor of the bill, said Maryland

was the only other state to ban speaking fees. Although the practice of accepting money for making speeches and writing books "is not as rampant in Harrisburg as it is in Washington," Blaum said, "it was on its way."

Blaum praised Casey for "standing very tall in December of 1988 when he was under a lot of pressure to sign that poor excuse of an ethics law."

Rallying support for the stricter law was not easy. The new bill was revised nearly every step of the way (See ETHICS on 4B)

## Governor signs measure to save ethics panel

ETHICS, from 1-B

and sat on the shelf in the Senate for several months before being passed unanimously two weeks ago. The House then passed the Senate's amended version, 199-1.

"We went through an 18-month battle — some would call it an ordeal — to get one of the strongest ethics bills in the country passed," said Blaum, a Luzerne County Democrat.

Although advocates of a stronger ethics law, led by Common Cause of Pennsylvania, supported the signing yesterday, they have pointed out some flaws. For example, the law protects public officials from punishment if they act on bad advice from government attorneys unless collusion is involved. In addition, the Ethics Commission will have to meet a slightly greater burden of proof to demonstrate violations than in the past.

Even supporters of a strong bill accepted those portions after the Senate tightened up weaker language that had been added on the floor of the House.

"Did we get everything we wanted? No," Blaum said. "But they undid what was done in the House."

Senate Majority Whip David J. Brightbill (R., Lebanon) said he thought the final bill was "a good compromise."

"I think we've strengthened the areas that deserved to be strengthened," he said.

Casey also signed a bill yesterday re-establishing the Civil Service Commission.



## State ethics bill is 'strongest' in U.S.

By Edward Levenson  
*Staff Writer*

The ethics legislation just passed by the General Assembly is "the strongest state ethics law in the United States of America," a key sponsor says.

Rep. David W. Heckler, R-143, said the new ethics bill is a tremendous improvement over the legislation that passed both houses last session but was vetoed by Gov. Robert P. Casey.

The new bill is awaiting Casey's signature. The vetoed bill, which was hurriedly considered in the waning hours of the 1988 session, would have allowed officials to hire family members without restriction and would have exempted them from reporting honoraria (speaking fees) up to \$500, gifts

up to \$500 and any payments from lobbyists for transportation, lodging and hospitality.

The revised act, which passed the Senate 50-0 and the House 199-1, prohibits officials from hiring relatives, bans all honoraria and requires reporting of gifts of \$200 or more and payments for transportation, lodging and hospitality which exceed \$500 for a single event.

The life of the State Ethics Commission, which was due to go out of existence June 30, is extended 10 years instead of four, which was all the vetoed bill allowed.

Heckler and other legislators in Bucks and Mont-

See ETHICS on Page A 16

# State ethics bill is 'strongest' in U.S.

Continued from Page A 1

gomery counties say the new ethics act is a stronger, better law that will help restore public confidence in the integrity of government.

"The law we had was vague and weak," said Heckler, a Doylestown lawyer who was the chief advocate for ethics reform in the House Republican caucus. "What was produced is arguably the strongest bill in the country."

Sen. James C. Greenwood, R-10, said the legislation makes clear that "public officials should not hire family members. It was a long time coming but needed to be done." He added, "The public is better protected now from corrupt government officials than they ever have been in the past."

Sen. Stewart J. Greenleaf, R-12, said "I'm happy to see" that provisions allowing nepotism were removed from the legislation. He said he has no problem with the stricter requirements on reporting gifts. "I list anything and everything."

Rep. Jean T. Wilson, R-144, said, "I do not know why (lobbyists) have to give gifts. I don't want any." Wilson, who was not in the Legislature last session, said, "It certainly sounds like they did a better job this time."

Rep. Jon D. Fox, R-153, said the act provides for a strong ethics commission. "It is important that elected officials are as up front and careful in their dealings as possible."

Rep. Charles F. Nahill Jr., R-154, said, "The whole line of the bill is getting away from the acceptance of anything like a gift." The new act in effect says "Don't call it by another name. It's still a gift."

Heckler said the governor's veto killed a bad bill and gave the Legislature a second chance to pass meaningful ethics legislation. "Ultimately, the system worked as it should work," he said.

Heckler said the previous bill, passed first by the House, was amended in the Senate by "a limited number of people with bad motivation who tried to slip it by everyone."

Some Philadelphia legislators supported a provision that would have permitted nepotism and ended an ethics commission investigation into several city council members whose wives work on their staffs.

When the bill came up for a vote in the final two days of the session, most senators and representatives were not familiar with the last-minute changes that weakened ethics provisions, Heckler said.

Faced with a choice of voting down the bill or possibly allowing the ethics commission to go out of existence, the Senate voted 47-2 and the House voted 114-78 for the legislation. Casey, citing the watering down of ethical standards, vetoed the bill.

This session, the House passed a strong ethics bill and sent it to the Senate.

"The senators knew what was in the bill," Heckler said. "There was no way the badly motivated people (could gut the bill)."

Although the bill sat in the Senate for three months, it emerged with most of the House version intact. The Senate even tightened a new provision in the House bill that would have excused ethics violations by public officials who acted on bad advice from a solicitor or an attorney.

Besides prohibition of nepotism and honoraria and the requirements on reporting gifts, other provisions of the new ethics act include:

- State legislators who are attorneys may not accept fees for representing clients opposing state agencies or groups receiving state contracts or grants. The vetoed bill allowed attorneys fees.

- A person who alleges an ethics violation may be sued for misusing the act if the complaint is found to be frivolous and was made for an ulterior motive or was publicly disclosed.

Heckler said this provision was intended to prevent politically motivated and groundless ethics allegations from being announced by a campaign opponent just prior to an election so that the target would not have time to respond. He said this should not deter legitimate complaints because the ethics commission determines whether a charge is frivolous.

- Public officials are not allowed to lobby the government agency with which they were formerly associated for one year after leaving. However, lobbying is allowed if there is no payment or promise of payment.

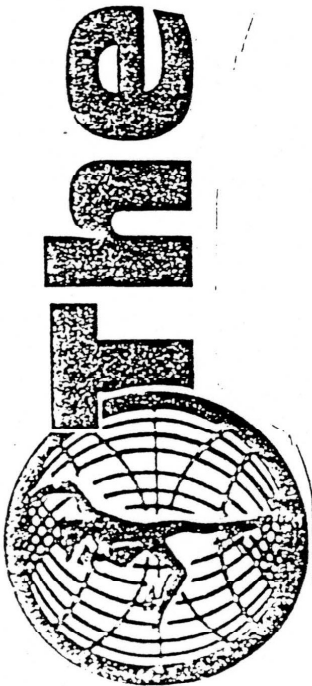


Wednesday, June 21, 1989  
Front Page

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GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE  
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HARRISBURG, PA. 17120

# Mercury

A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Newspaper



## Limerick asks lawyer to study ethics proposal

By JAMES BURRUS  
Mercury Staff Writer

LIMERICK — The township board of supervisors Tuesday asked township solicitor Ronald Reynier to review the scope of the proposed state ethics law.

The request comes after supervisor Chairman Joseph Petrowski's call for the resignation of municipal authority member Stephen Tanner or his wife, Candice. Petrowski said the hiring of Mrs. Tanner as administrator for the authority represents a conflict of interest under the proposed ethics law.

Petrowski was not present at Tuesday's supervisors' meeting. But Supervisor Ammon Morgan said the decision to have Reynier review the legislation was made during an executive session.

"We ask our solicitor to review all legislation," Morgan said. "We asked him to review this as well and to report on its impact to the board."

The ethics bill has been passed by both the House and Senate in Harrisburg and is awaiting Gov. Robert Casey's signature, Reynier said.

A provision of the bill would prohibit relatives of government officials from being employed by the same governing body.

(See LIMERICK on 5)

## Limerick asks lawyer to study ethics bill

(LIMERICK from 1)

Regardless of whether the bill is signed into law, Mrs. Tanner said the state Ethics Commission would "grandfather" her in her job since she already holds the position.

A grandfathered employee is one who is exempted from a law because he or she was employed before the law went into effect.

The Tanners and other authority representatives have been embroiled in a long-running feud with the supervisors, most recently over the proposal to build separate authority offices at the site of the sewage treatment plant on King Road. The supervisors have offered the authority offices in the basement of the township building, which they plan to expand.

"We have to discuss many things

with the authority in order to work something out," Morgan said. "Administratively, I think they should be here, but hatred doesn't make it easy."

The municipal authority is a semi-autonomous body that acts independently of the supervisors.

At its meeting tonight, the authority is expected to consider whether to accept the supervisors' offer of 700 square feet of basement office space in the Ridge Pike municipal building. The expansion project is expected to cost at least \$1 million and will nearly double the size of the existing building.

Several municipal authority members, including Tanner, favor building an office, garage and laboratory next to the sewage treatment plant.

## CENTRAL PA.

# Casey signs bill to extend Civil Service Commission life

By Carmen Brutto  
Patriot-News

Gov. Robert P. Casey yesterday signed a bill that extends the life of the state Civil Service Commission through December 1994 and ensures the state will continue receiving more than \$4 billion a year in federal funds.

The bill also tightens restrictions on political activities of workers covered by Civil Service. The reprieve came five days before the agency was scheduled to go out of business under the state Sunset Law and slightly

more than 50 years after the agency was created on June 6, 1939.

"This bill preserves state government's primary tool to ensure that the people's business is conducted fairly, impartially and without political interference," Casey said in signing the measure.

A bill was first introduced to extend the life of the commission about two years ago. Under the state's Sunset Law, agencies are periodically reviewed, and those deemed unnecessary are not continued.

Last session, a House bill died in Senate committee because of opposition to what were perceived as pro-labor amendments.

In this session, much of the debate centered on political activity and labor relations. However, there was unanimous legislative approval of the bill signed yesterday by Casey.

A critical factor in the Legislature's decision is federal law which requires that agencies receiving federal grants must be operated under an accepted Civil Service procedure. About \$4.1 billion in federal aid is affected

by that requirement.

"Enactment of this law is especially important, because it protects federal funding that could be shut off if the Civil Service Act lapsed," Casey said.

Theresa Mitchell, commission chairman, said she was "basically very happy" with the final action by the governor.

"We can now look forward to the responsibility of doing our work," Mitchell said.

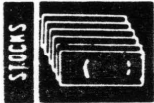
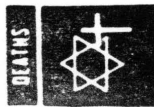
Rep. Gordon Linton, D-Philadelphia, prime sponsor of the bill, also said he was happy the work

judge of elections or precinct clerk. A Civil Service-covered worker, however, may be a candidate in a school board election.

The law also continues the commission's three-member composition, but prohibits members from serving for more than six months beyond the end of a six-year term. Previously, a member served until a successor was appointed.

The new law incorporates portions of the federal Hatch Act which regulates political activities for federal Civil Service workers and more clearly defines prohibited and permitted activities than the old state law.

The new law goes beyond the federal law by barring state merit system workers from non-partisan election duties such as a



SECTION **B**

More local news  
on Page C16

# CENTRAL PA.

Tuesday, June 27, 1989

The Patriot

Harrisburg, Pa.

## Ethics: New law bars speaking fees, shields whistle blowers

By Carmen Brutto  
Patriot-News

Pennsylvania has a new ethics law that bars public officials and government employees from accepting speaking fees from private groups.

It also provides protection for government whistle blowers reporting ethics violations.

"We're giving public officials at every level a simple message: The line between right and wrong is now firm and clear," Gov. Robert P. Casey told spectators packed in the Governor's Reception Room for the signing of the new Ethics Law.

The governor's signature yesterday brought to an end a battle of nearly two years to extend the life of the state Ethics Commission, the agency responsi-

ble for overseeing the conduct of public officials for conflicts of interest and reviewing their financial statements.

Last December, the governor vetoed a bill that he said would have "knocked the stuffing out of the Ethics Law," and called on the Legislature to pass an acceptable bill.

Earlier this month, legislators sent to Casey the bill that will extend the Ethics Commission's life for 10 years. The Legislature was under pressure to have an acceptable bill signed into law no later than Friday, when the commission would have gone out of business.

The governor said enactment of a strict ethics law is "especially important because the people so often see evidence that their trust has been violated."

"Having clear rules and guidelines is vital to making sure that everyone in government will honestly and independen-

by the Senate.

Blaum said he sees little chance of any meaningful changes being proposed to the new law before the commission faces another Sunset Law review in 10 years. That law is designed to eliminate unneeded agencies.

Barry Kauffman, executive director of Common Cause/Pennsylvania, which has battled for a strong ethics bill, said "it's about time."

"This is a law which we believe will protect the public and at the same time be fair to public officials," Kauffman said.

The law would:

- Bar public officials and public employees from accepting speaking fees from private groups, making Pennsylvania one of only two states (Maryland is the other) with such a prohibition.
- Require the reporting of reim-

bursement from a private source exceeding \$500 for transportation, lodging or hospitality received for appearances in connection with official duties.

— Provide protection to government whistle blowers reporting violations of the ethics law.

— Prohibit the use of office for personal or family gain, and expand the definition of family to include spouse, children, parents and siblings.

— Specify that all commission procedures guarantee and promote due process.

— Require the commission to develop a code of conduct for its own officials.

— Places restrictions on attempts to influence persons leaving private jobs for public service through profitable severance agreements.

**"We're giving public officials at every level a simple message: The line between right and wrong is now firm and clear."**

— Gov. Robert P. Casey

denly serve the taxpayers," Casey said. "That they will be trusted servants for public good, not private profit; and that they won't use their positions of public responsibility to enrich themselves."

Rep. Kevin Blaum, D-Luzerne, prime sponsor of the ethics bill, praised Casey for "standing tall" last December in vetoing the bill which was watered down

4



# Ethics and Civil Service commissions renewed

HARRISBURG (AP) — Gov. Casey signed bills renewing the State Ethics Commission and the Civil Service Commission yesterday, just days before the two agencies were scheduled to go out of existence.

Casey signed the bills during a brief ceremony before a crowd of lawmakers, public officials and lobbyists. Both laws are effective immediately.

The first reauthorizes the State Ethics Commission for 10 more years and toughens the law that governs the conduct of legislators and public officials. Casey last year vetoed another ethics bill because he said it weakened the ethics law.

The law defines conflict of interest for the first time, restricts severance agreements and bans legislators from accepting fees for

appearances. It also restricts public officials from using their offices for personal or family gain and protects employees who report wrongdoing.

Under the second law, the Civil Service Commission, which oversees the hiring and promotion of 68,000 state employees, will be kept alive for seven more years.

The law gives commissioners more authority to become involved in the day-to-day operations of the agency and boosts their annual maximum salaries from \$27,000 to \$32,500. It also clearly defines permissible political activities for civil service employees.

Casey said the law was vital to preserve about \$4 billion in federal funding for Pennsylvania.

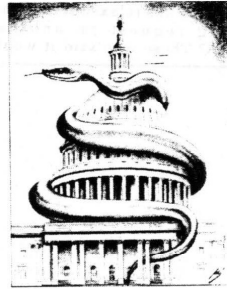
City & State  
June 19, 1989

# Perspective

## Ethics laws can help officials earn respect

**I**T IS SELDOM THAT ONE FINDS AN OCCUPATION or a business that is demanding reform of its ethics with the intensity that *City & State* readers expressed in our national survey. In fact, if such a group exists outside of religious orders, we haven't heard their cries.

But not only are public officials inviting effective legislation that would define ethical standards in campaign contributions, disclosure of earnings and assets, outside honorariums and the acceptance of gratuities, they feel they are entitled to such legislation because public service is more than a job to them. It's a summons to duty on behalf of the public and, as such, *City & State* readers believe they are entitled to protection from the sleazier elements of the private sector.



More than seven out of 10 public officials believe their ethical standards should be higher than in the private sector, and they're ready to disclose their income and assets, give up honorariums for public speaking and buy their own meals.

The likelihood that stringent ethical regulation would discourage qualified people from entering public service is of little concern to our readers. They believe public service needs individuals committed to high standards more than it needs warm bodies to stock the bureaucracy.

And they may be right, because *City & State* readers are deeply worried about the erosion of the public's opinion of them as public servants. Individuals don't work in the public sector to get rich — at least the ethical ones don't — so a loss of public esteem is more than a criticism. It's a rejection of values.

As the *City & State* survey shows, public officials are eager for reform, and while they recognize that a jurisdiction can't legislate morality, it can do the next best thing and require disclosure.

City & State  
June 19, 1981

# What readers had to say about ethics in government

The numerical results of *City & State's* Ethics in Government survey (see Page 14) capsule respondents' perceptions and practices regarding ethical behavior. But a sampling of survey comments offered by readers adds life to the statistics.

For example, here are the reasons offered by some respondents who answered "yes" to the question: Should public officials adhere to higher ethical standards than leaders in the private sector?

"Because they work for the public. If they don't like it, then get out of public service."

"Business is inherently self-

serving. Government must serve a balance of all public and private interests."

"The old-boy system fuels the private sector. It is intolerable in the public sector."

"This country needs to restore a sense of ethics, honor and sincerity everywhere; someone needs to set the example."

"Public officials are trustees of the community's wealth and resources. They should not use their position for personal gain."

"They are answerable to the entire public, not just shareholders."

"Because many in the private sector seem to have no ethical

standards."

"No privacy exists for the public sector."

"Caesar's wife."

And these reasons were offered by those who believe public officials should *not* be held to a higher ethical standard:

"All should be equally ethical."

"Degree is not a question. Like pregnancy, you're either ethical or not ethical."

"Private sector affects our lives as much as public."

"Leaders in the private sector need to clean up their act and rise to the standards of public officials."

*Continued on Page 17*

## Standards

*Continued from Page 14*

"Public officials are people. The more earnings, the more exposure."

Question: Would it be ethical to accept a free weekend for you and your spouse at a luxury resort owned by a developer who wants to discuss, in a relaxed setting, his zoning request on another project? Those who said it would

be ethical offered these comments:

"Ethics should be disclosed."

"Standards do not have to be compromised. Freer exchange of ideas, businessman spends at his own risk."

"As long as it is clear the trip does not affect posture on vote and is reported in the public record."

"It is done in business all the time."

"A good commissioner would not be influenced."

Those who said it would not be ethical commented:

"If you can't eat it there, or drink it there, don't take it. *Nothing* better follow you home."

"Such an offer is on its face blatantly unethical."

"Presentations should be made at public meetings. I am more relaxed at the office, away from my wife."

"Their decision has to be colored in subtle ways not even recognized by the commissioners."

"Corruption at its worst and most insidious."

Finally, to the question on whether public officials are being held to an unrealistic ethical standard, respondents who believe they are *not* had this to say:

"Except in celebrated media cases on the national level. More for the gain of the accuser than to chastise the accused."

"But intrusions into their private lives may be excessive."

"But they are being *underpaid!*"

And the comment of one who said yes, officials are being held to an unrealistic standard: "In the news media."

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## THE MORNING CALL

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TUESDAY  
JUNE 27, 1989

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# Governor renews Ethics, Civil Service commissions

By STEPHEN DRACHLER  
Harrisburg Bureau Chief

**HARRISBURG** — Declaring that "the line between right and wrong is now firm and clear," Gov. Robert P. Casey yesterday signed legislation that renews the state Ethics Commission and bars public officials from accepting fees for making speeches.

The governor's signature came just four days before the Ethics Commission was due to go out of existence. The ethics crisis was created last December when Casey vetoed a loophole-ridden bill that would have renewed the commission at the price of legalizing nepotism.

Casey also yesterday signed another bill that renewed the state Civil Service Commission for five years. Without that bill, the Civil Service Commission, like the Ethics Commission, would have ceased to exist on June 30.

In addition to banning public officials from accepting honoraria from private organizations, the new law:

► Requires officials to report reimbursement of over \$500 for transportation, lodging or hospitality that

is received from groups outside of government.

► Mandates reporting of gifts valued over \$200, except gifts from friends and foreign governments.

► Bars public officials from hiring spouses, children, siblings and parents.

► Provides for the disclosure of a complainant's name if the allegation turns out to be frivolous or not made in good faith.

► Protects government whistleblowers from vindictive treatment by superiors or fellow employees.

► Restricts severance agreements and payments that persons entering public service can receive from their former private employers.

Pennsylvania and Maryland are the only states that bar public officials from accepting honoraria. The U.S. Congress has been embroiled in an honoraria controversy for months.

Some parts of the new law had been questioned by Common Cause, the self-styled citizens' lobby group.

Barry Kauffman, its Pennsylvania executive director, said the organization will be closely monitoring sections that allow former public officials to become unpaid lobbyists immediately after leaving government and one that allows officials to vote on issues where they have a potential conflict-of interest. The vote is allowed if it is needed to meet a legal majority.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH NEWS BUREAU  
Room 308, Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

M E D I A   A D V I S O R Y

DATE: June 23, 1989

TO:           Capitol Correspondents  
              and Interested Media

FROM:        Bob Grotevant  
              Press Secretary  
              to the Governor  
              (717) 787-9588

SUBJECT:     Schedule Advisory

Gov. Robert P. Casey will sign House Bill 75, which re-establishes the State Ethics Commission, and House Bill 162, which re-establishes the State Civil Service Commission, at a public ceremony at noon on Monday, June 26, in the Governor's Reception Room.

Your coverage is invited.

# # #



NEWS RELEASE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Office of the Governor  
Commonwealth News Bureau  
Room 308, Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

CONTACT: Bob Grotevant  
Press Secretary  
(717) 787-9588

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AFTER 10 A.M., SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1989**

**GOVERNOR CASEY HAILS NEW ETHICS BILL, WHICH HE WILL SIGN MONDAY**

HARRISBURG (June 24) -- Hailing it as a model for the nation, Gov. Robert P. Casey said today he will sign a tough new state ethics measure into law at a ceremony on Monday.

The ethics measure, House Bill 75, was overwhelmingly approved by the Legislature earlier this month.

In his weekly radio address, Gov. Casey called the legislation "a big step forward," especially when compared to an ethics bill he vetoed in December 1988. The vetoed measure "would have knocked the stuffing out of the ethics law we already have on the books in Pennsylvania," the governor said.

"I said back in December that we wouldn't stand for any weakening, any backsliding when it came to ethics legislation," Gov. Casey said. "Today, I'm glad to say that the General Assembly has risen to the challenge and passed a new ethics bill, one that I can -- and will -- sign."

The governor will sign H.B. 75 at a noontime ceremony in the Governor's Reception Room.

"Having clear rules and guidelines is vital to making sure that everyone in government -- local, state and federal -- will

honestly and independently serve the taxpayers," Gov. Casey said. "And that they won't use their positions of responsibility to abuse the public trust by enriching themselves.

"It's vital because our people deserve a government at every level which not only works hard, but works for them."

The new law is in line with strict Casey Administration ethical standards governing the conduct of executive branch employees.

H.B. 75 extends the life of the State Ethics Commission for 10 years, bars public officials from using their offices for private gain, makes Pennsylvania one of only two states in the nation to ban speaking fees paid by private groups to public officials, and provides unprecedented protection to public employees who expose wrongdoing by government officials.

The governor noted a speech made by President-elect John F. Kennedy to the Massachusetts Legislature just before his inauguration in 1961 in which Kennedy said that history will judge public officials as successes or failures based on their courage, judgment, integrity and dedication.

"I believe that when I sign H.B. 75 into law on Monday, those of us, men and women, who serve the people of Pennsylvania today and in the future, will be much more likely to answer, 'Yes, we were truly people of integrity and dedication,'" Gov. Casey said. "That, after all, is what ethics in government is really all about."

# # #

Gov. Robert P. Casey  
Weekly Radio Address  
June 24, 1989

It's hard to open the paper or watch the evening news these days without seeing something about "ethics in government." Influence peddling at the federal housing department. Fat Pentagon consulting contracts. Hundred thousand-dollar phone calls by former cabinet members and White House staffers. Book royalties and special interest dollars for congressmen.

The stories coming out of Washington tell of those in both executive and legislative branches who -- consciously or unconsciously -- stepped over a line. Not just the bright line which clearly divides what's legal and illegal for private citizens. But a fuzzier line which tries to distinguish between what's ethical and unethical in the actions of our public officials.

The late Chief Justice Earl Warren once said that "The man of character, sensitive to the meaning of what he is doing, will know how to discover the ethical paths in the maze of possible behavior."

Having clear rules and guidelines is vital to making sure that everyone in government -- local, state and federal -- will honestly and independently serve the taxpayers. And that they won't use their positions of responsibility to abuse the public trust by enriching themselves. It's vital because our people deserve a government at every level which not only works hard, but works for them.

That's why I've insisted on the toughest ethical standards for the men and women who serve with me in the executive branch. Tougher, in fact, than any prior administration in our state. That's also why I vetoed a bill six months ago which would have knocked the stuffing out of the ethics law we already have on the books in Pennsylvania.

I said back in December that we wouldn't stand for any weakening, any backsliding when it came to ethics legislation. And we didn't. Today, I'm glad to say that the General Assembly has risen to the challenge and passed a new ethics bill. One I can -- and will -- sign. As a matter of fact, I'm going to sign it at noon on Monday in the state capitol.

You know, the capitol building itself is a beautiful and inspiring place -- a monument to Pennsylvania's people and to the honor of public service. It's a sad and ironic twist that some of the very people whose genius built it at the turn of the century ended up in jail for graft in the construction project.

But their handiwork remains untarnished. Inscribed on the walls of the glittering rotunda are some special words. Words used by William Penn when he founded our Commonwealth as a "noble experiment" in open self-government and religious tolerance. In letters at least three feet high it says, "An example may be set-up to the nations that we may do the thing that is wise and just."

The state legislature has been wise and just in fashioning a new ethics law which really is a model for the rest of the country. It can't guarantee the honesty and integrity of every single person who works in government. Probably no law ever could. But it does create clearer guidelines, stricter rules and the ability for stronger enforcement by the state ethics commission. So it's a big step forward.

This law prohibits state and local officials from using their offices to benefit themselves or their family members. It provides due process for those accused of conflict of interest. It preserves what's best about our current ethics law; but at the same time goes even further.

It makes Pennsylvania one of only two states in the country to ban speaking fees -- paid by private groups to public officials. And it provides first time protection for government employees who uncover wrongdoing and blow the whistle on their bosses. That's especially important to keeping government honest and making sure that the taxpayers' money is spent for its intended purpose.

Less than two weeks before he became president, John F. Kennedy told the members of the Massachusetts legislature that governments at every level, national state and local "must be as a city upon a hill, constructed and inhabited by men aware of their grave trust and their great responsibilities."

"For those to whom much is given, much is required," he said. "And when at some future date the high court of history sits in judgment of each of us, recording whether in our brief span of service we fulfilled our responsibilities to the state, our success or failure, in whatever office we hold, will be measured by the answers to four questions:

"First, were we truly men of courage...

"Second, were we truly men of judgment...

"Third, were we truly men of integrity...

"Finally, were we truly men of dedication...?"

I believe that when I sign House Bill 75 into law on Monday those of us -- men and women -- who serve the people of Pennsylvania today and in the future, will be much more likely to answer, "Yes, we were truly people of integrity and dedication." That, after all, is what ethics in government is really all about.                   # # #

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNOR SIGNS TOUGH NEW ETHICS LAW

HARRISBURG (June 26) -- Gov. Robert P. Casey today signed into law a tough new ethics bill that establishes high standards for public officials across the Commonwealth.

"We're giving public officials at every level a simple message: The line between right and wrong is now firm and clear," the governor said at a bill-signing ceremony in the Governor's Reception Room.

H.B. 75, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Blaum (D-Luzerne), re-establishes the State Ethics Commission and strengthens the state's ethics law, enacted in 1978, by:

\* Barring public officials and public employees from accepting speaking fees from private groups, making Pennsylvania one of only two states in the nation with this prohibition.

\* Requiring the reporting of reimbursement exceeding \$500 for transportation, lodging or hospitality received in connection with official duties, unless the reimbursement is from a governmental body or organization which the public official serves in an official capacity.

\* Requiring the reporting of gifts valued at more than \$200.



- \* Providing unprecedented protection for government "whistleblowers" who report wrongdoing.

- \* Prohibiting public officials from using their offices for personal or family gain.

- \* Providing due process for persons accused of conflict of interest.

The measure was overwhelmingly approved by the House and Senate. It is effective immediately.

Enactment of a strict ethics law is "especially important because the people so often see evidence that their trust has been violated," the governor noted.

"Having clear rules and guidelines is vital to making sure that everyone in government will honestly and independently serve the taxpayers," Gov. Casey said. "That they will be trusted servants for public good, not private profit, and that they won't use their positions of public responsibility to enrich themselves.

"That's why I've insisted on the toughest ethical standards for the men and women who serve with me in the executive branch," Gov. Casey said. "Tougher, in fact, than any prior administration in our state."

Noting that he was forced to veto a bill last December that watered down the state's ethics law, the governor said: "Today, I'm proud that the General Assembly has met the challenge and has passed a new ethics bill that keeps faith with the people who've entrusted us with the conduct of their public business."