

1989

National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (1990-1991): Correspondence 10

John Glenn

Carl Levin

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

LEONARD WEISS, STAFF DIRECTOR
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December 7, 1989

Mr. Jerald C. Newman
Chairman, National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science
2001 Marcus Avenue, Suite N-20
Lake Success, New York 11042

Dear Mr. Newman:

We are writing to inquire about certain activities which have come to our attention regarding the advisory committee established by Public Law 100-382 to advise the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science on conducting a White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

As the Senate Committee with jurisdiction over the Commission and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), we are concerned about reports of questionable actions taken by Daniel H. Carter, chairman of the Commission's advisory committee. We would therefore appreciate your providing the following information by December 22, 1989:

(1) The General Services Administration's Committee Management Secretariat has determined that the Commission's advisory committee is subject to FACA's management and fiscal controls, but we understand that Mr. Carter is contesting this determination. Please explain the legal authority upon which Mr. Carter is relying, and provide the Commission's position on this matter.

(2) We've been informed that Mr. Carter has exercised procurement authority over a substantial amount of federal funds in connection with his advisory committee activities. If this is true, please explain the circumstances under which he was allowed to exercise such authority and the legal basis for his actions, indicate whether he continues to exercise this authority, and identify the total amount and the expenditures he has authorized to date.

(3) Please calculate the total expenses incurred by the advisory committee to date and summarize its expenditures according to general categories (including amounts paid as compensation to committee members, compensation to staff, and travel expenses).

(4) We've been informed that the White House Conference on Library and Information Services will not receive a

Mr. Jerald C. Newman
December 7, 1989
Page Two

request for appropriations in the budget to be submitted to Congress by President Bush for fiscal year 1991, and that one of the reasons may be that Mr. Carter submitted inadequate and untimely documentation. Please indicate your understanding of this situation; if it is true, why Mr. Carter was handling the matter; and what, if anything, the Commission plans to do about the Conference budget.

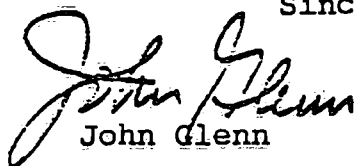
(5) We've been informed that a subcommittee of the Commission's advisory committee is planning to hold a closed meeting to select an executive director for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Please indicate whether the Commission has delegated this personnel authority to the subcommittee and, if so, why and on what legal basis, whether the full committee or the Commission will review the subcommittee's determinations, and what steps the Commission will take to ensure the subcommittee's compliance with FACA. Please provide a copy of the minutes from any subcommittee meeting on this issue.

(6) Please indicate whether, in addition to his role as chairman, Mr. Carter has held any other position with the advisory committee. Please indicate the total amount of federal funds, if any, which has been paid to Mr. Carter in connection with his advisory committee activities, and explain the basis for these payments. If Mr. Carter has simultaneously held more than one position with the advisory committee, please explain this situation.

(7) Please indicate whether Mr. Carter will be seeking reappointment to the Commission in 1990, and whether the Commission has any plans to review his performance as chairman of the advisory committee.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about our concerns, please contact Elise Bean at (202) 224-3682.

Sincerely,


John Glenn


Carl Levin

JG/CL:ejb