

What Makes A Governor's Office Tick?

Service, Not Structure, Plus Youth

One Of Meyner's Staff Also Cites 'Passion For Anonymity'

How does a modern Governor's office work?

Who are the men and women behind Governor Meyner in the most important public office in New Jersey?

They are, to use a term first used here by one of them, people with "a passion for anonymity."

Yet each has an important function to perform that often vitally affects the welfare of the people of the state.

Without these aides, a chief executive would be virtually helpless to meet the many heavy demands upon his time.

Every executive office, of course, is organized differently. Often such an office has a distinguishing characteristic which contributes to the advancement of public administration, such as President Eisenhower's staff system for delegation of authority.

The distinguishing mark of Governor Meyner's office is a constant attempt to cut through red tape and tackle problems on the basis of teamwork.

Conducive to Informality

This makes for a certain informality both within the executive office and in its outside contacts.



The two Dorothy's in Governor Meyner's office are Mrs. Dorothy G. Smith, right, his personal secretary who has been with him over 20 years, and Miss Dorothyann Seltzer, secretary to his executive secretary. No letter goes out over Meyner's signature without Mrs. Smith seeing it.

put it, Meyner's is a shoot-from-the-hip kind of administration."

It also makes for — or so Meyner's assistants firmly believe — an overriding concern with the solution of human problems that can only be tackled at the "top." One boast of the office is that no letter to the Governor — and there are an average of 500 of them a week — goes unanswered.

"Services, not structure" — that's the way the primary emphasis of its operation is described in a Governor's office whose accent is on youth.

Meyner's principal aides and their functions not necessarily in order of importance, are:

Brendan F. Bryne, acting executive secretary. Bryne, 32, of West Orange, replaced Robert J. Burkhardt last August when the latter became executive director of the state Democratic party for at least until after next November's election.

Bryne is in charge of two kinds of appointments — appointments to see the Governor and appointments the Governor makes to various posts. As a deputy attorney general, he remains in charge of prisoner clemency matters, which he handled when in the office of the Governor's counsel. Burkhardt largely retains with the party his status of political liaison man for Meyner.

Bryne's secretary is Miss Dorothyann Seltzer of Trenton, second-ranking woman in the executive office who sometimes takes dictation from the Governor.

Mrs. Dorothy G. Smith, personal secretary. Mrs. Smith started with Meyner over 20 years ago in his law office in Phillipsburg, long enough to be more like a personal advisor.



This is a picture of key gubernatorial aides temporarily losing their "passion for anonymity." Raymond F. Male, center, Meyner's administrative assistant and chief cutter of red tape, brings a problem to Harold Kolovsky, right, counsel to the Governor, and David C. Thompson, assistant counsel.

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Office Manager, Too

She not only takes dictation from him, but handles his engagements outside the office. No letter goes out over Meyner's signature that Mrs. Smith does not check. In addition, she serves as office manager. Her secretary is Miss Ann Dolan.

Raymond F. Male, administrative assistant, Male, 35, of Princeton, comes to Meyner as his chief cutter of red tape after a record of distinguished service in several state governments. Among his former bosses are the then Governors Herbert H. Lehman of New York, Sherman Adams of New Hampshire, Chester Bowles of Connecticut and Mayor Joseph S. Clark of Philadelphia.

Male is Meyner's contact with the various state departments. He represents the Governor at budget meetings and in state personnel matters. But more than being the liaison with the cabinet, he works on special projects, such as creating the Bordentown manual training school, and is the coordinator of Meyner's famous teams of private and public employees.

These teams, consisting of experts "borrowed" from private corporations and from different areas of state government, have done such jobs as streamlining of unemployment compensation payments and putting into operation the mail system for processing motor vehicle credentials.

They are an example of Male's



Brendan F. Bryne, right, the Governor's young acting executive secretary, discusses a paper with Ira Daniels, the executive office's man Friday. Bryne keeps tab on Meyner's appointments.

They are an example of Male's enthusiastic preoccupation with avoiding compartmentalization of functions and ideas under Meyner.

Assistant Counsel

Harold Kolovsky, counsel, and David C. Thompson, assistant counsel to the Governor. Along with David Goldberg, 26, of Trenton, legal assistant, Kolovsky, 49, of North Bergen and Thompson, 36, of Bloomfield are concerned mostly with legislative bills: drafting some, consulting with legislative leaders, reviewing passed bills and preparing veto messages.

Kolovsky, who is also assistant attorney general, is the third counsel to Meyner. The Governor made Milton B. Conford, the first, a Superior Court judge. He also made Joseph Weintraub a Superior Court judge, then elevated him to the Supreme Court. Like Weintraub was, Kolovsky is also New Jersey representative on the Bi-state Waterfront Commission, which keeps him from the State House two days a week. Thompson also has an extracurricular activity in membership on the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission.

While the "Governor's lawyers" serve as his liaison with the Legislature, they are also available to individual departments, private citizens and legislators themselves on processing bills. They also pass on all legal paper before Meyner.

Lawrence O. Houston, acting press secretary. Houston, 27, of Trenton is on "loan" from the Labor Department's Rehabilitation

Commission. James Farley served as press secretary during the first months of the Meyner administration before returning to his job of publicity director for the state Democratic party. Then came Ralph Coghlan, former writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, who left last Summer.

Houston helps write some speeches for the Governor, but most of Meyner's speeches are either off-the-cuff or products of joint effort on which the chief executive himself has the final word.

Individual departments help on speeches concerning their areas. Houston also clips newspaper articles to bring to Meyner's attention and is in charge of proclamations and the like.

Comparatively Small Staff

Not only is Meyner's staff young. It is also comparatively small. Compared to New York's 91 positions in the Governor's office, there are 22 at the State House not including the Governor himself and the State Trooper always assigned to him on a rotating basis.

Besides those named, there are unsung workers like Meyner's executive aide or man Friday, Ira Daniels of Trenton, and the executive office's telephone operator, Mrs. Katherine McGowan, who does a great deal of screening in her own right.

Then there are the office "girls:" Miss Marie Groh, Miss Bessie Kater and Mrs. Olenlager, stenographers in the Governor's office proper; Mrs. Roberta Bearce, Mrs.

Helen M. Jeffrey and Mrs. Virginia Lengyel of the file room in the same office; Miss Ruth Klotz, Kolovsky's secretary, along with Miss Ada Circolo and Miss Colette Tucci, secretaries in the counsel's office and Mrs. Emily Glendinning, Male's secretary, and Mrs. Ann Napoli, Houston's secretary, both in the same office.

Meyner is a hard taskmaster but a certain esprit de corps is almost always evident among the executive staff. He is in constant touch with his aides. And they in turn, whether helping him directly or, say, seeking an answer to a human problem raised in a letter that cannot be referred to a department, are trying to avoid the pitfalls of bureaucracy in fact as well as in name. — D. V. P.

Drunk Driver Fined \$200, Loses License

FIELDSEBORO — John Chorba, 46, of 106 Third Avenue, Roebling, was found guilty of drunken driving when arraigned last night in Fieldsboro Municipal Court. Magistrate Gordon A. Philips imposed a fine of \$200 and costs. Chorba's license was lifted for two years.

Chief James Harbour and Patrolman Clifford Potts said they saw Chorba's car zig-zagging on Fieldsboro Road October 21. Trooper Frank Cutitta gave Chorba a State Police drunkometer examination.

Chorba was represented by attorney Myron Levy of Trenton.