

August 22, 1956

CABINET MEETING-AUGUST 21, 1956

The Cabinet Meeting started at 1:40 p.m. The Governor discussed the death of Arnold E. Martin, and the fact that a request had been made that no flowers be sent but that whatever contributions the cabinet wanted to make be sent to the widow for the education of the children. The money collected was turned over to Joe Katz at the end of the meeting.

Governor wished Ed Patten a Happy Birthday and Ed was given a walking donkey.

Governor reminded the cabinet members of the importance of having regular staff meetings. He also stated that the budget hearings were now in progress and he was anxious in the forthcoming budget not to have reason to suggest a tax increase. Commissioner McLean suggested a possible ceiling in advance for each department. This suggestion was rejected on the ground that a department may have to vary its budget considerably to meet special programs.

Mr. Patten asked whether there was any administration position on the two constitutional amendments which will be on the ballot in November. It was felt that the question as to the extension of the sheriff's term should be left to the people. As to ACR-36, dealing with assessment ratios, the Governor felt that perhaps a television program or his television program combined with the legislative program, might be devoted to giving the public the whole picture and letting them decide. Thompson is to get a statement from Neeld outlining the effects of ACR-36. Factors such as the effect of the veterans exemption and the municipal debt limit were briefly discussed.

Ed Patten then made the suggestion that we should get some figures showing that the increase in the state budget has not been excessive in comparison with those of other states, or with industry. Ray Male said that his office had been doing some investigation on this. Male will continue this study.

Dr. Raubinger reported that the Rutgers Board of Governors had been sworn in on Monday, August 20. He also stated that the recent amendments to the Federal Social Security Act may bring on another wave of retirements on November 1. Raubinger and the counsel's office are working out a program to avoid such a situation. Thompson said that that program should be completed shortly.

Commissioner Tramburg reported that his department is now looking into the effect of the new Federal Aid Bill. He indicated that federal contributions to people now receiving welfare aid from the state may result in some budget savings for us in 1957 and 1958.

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Tramburg also gave a confidential summary of the Jamesburg situation. He stated that he was having a meeting with the people from the surrounding communities on Wednesday evening and that he had also met with some of the citizens from Monroe Township on Monday. He indicated Fitch had become a victim of his own system and he outlined the "dukes" and "dips" system which had developed in Jamesburg, and its evil defects, including Fitch's suppression of a report which should have been made to Dr. Bergsma.

Mr. Finley reported that the holdback of pay would cease with the next payday and that from then on by-weekly pay on Friday. There have been some objections to Friday as a payday, mostly on the ground that a one day delay in mailing or distribution of checks carries the employee over the weekend without being able to cash his check.

Finley also suggested that the Governor appear at a formal opening of 1100 Raymond Boulevard. Finley will investigate a suitable date and report again to the Governor.

Mr. Male suggested that a new picture of the cabinet be taken at the October meeting.

The Governor then stated that he plans a short message to the Legislature on September 17 in which he will outline the matters of importance which have not been acted upon by the Legislature, such as the Freeway, and the Police Training Bill. Each cabinet member will review the Governor's message and report any suggestions which may be incorporated in the message.

Mr. Finley suggested that reference be made to the building program.

Commissioner Palmer suggested that reference be made to the legislative recommendations to the Waterfront Commission, and that this message would be a good time for the Governor to endorse the recommendations, especially, since Harriman appears to be favorably disposed to a similar course when the New York Legislature again meets.

Brendan T. Byrne

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