



NGA

From: LEWIS B. THURSTON III  
Chief of Staff

To: ..Governor Kean.....  
(Institution or Department)

Date: February 16, 1982

RE: National Governor's Conference Winter Meeting - Feb. 21-23

A. Committee Membership

It is essential that you indicate your committee preference to the NGA immediately.

The choices include:

- Agriculture
- Communities and Economic Development
- Criminal Justice and Public Protection
- Energy and Environment
- Executive Management and Fiscal Affairs
- Human Resources
- International Trade and Foreign Relations
- State-Local Relations
- Transportation, Commerce and Technology

Marilyn Thompson suggests membership on two, rather than three, committees because of the limits on your time. She indicated that the best committee is Executive Management and Fiscal Affairs, in essence the executive committee, which meets regularly with the highest executive and legislative officials of the Federal Government. While membership might not be possible now, an effort should be made to get on this committee after the November election which should result in at least several vacancies on the Committee.

Marilyn indicated that Governor Hughes of Maryland, who chairs the Transportation, Commerce and Technology Committee, would very much like you to serve on that committee. Governor Byrne served on this, and Marilyn feels it is an important committee for New Jersey.

Human Resources is another committee which is important for our State (medicaid, welfare, etc.) and on which you might wish to serve.

International Trade and Foreign Relations and Energy and Environment are other good committees, Marilyn indicated, although she said the latter is a very large committee.

Marilyn indicated the other committees generally were less desirable and/or appropriate for New Jersey in her opinion.

During his 8 years at one time or another Governor Byrne served as a member and chairman of the Criminal Justice, Transportation and International Trade Committees and also served on the Community and Economic Development Committee.

B. Advance Preparation

I would strongly suggest you may wish to discuss committee membership, policy and procedure regarding policy resolutions of the group and the general procedure and conduct of the conference with a few other governors. Obviously, you know Governors DuPont, and Thornburgh, and senior and leader Republican governors include Ray (Iowa), Milligan (Michigan) and Snelling (Vermont). Governor Carey is another one you might wish to contact regarding mutual concerns in advance of the meeting.

A number of policy resolutions have been proposed by NGA committees for consideration at this conference. We will review these now so you will be prepared to vote on them at the conference.

We should try also to have Marilyn Thompson come up later this week to brief us on conference procedure and major anticipated issues. We might also wish to touch base with John Stevens of the Republican Governors' Association regarding any concerns they have relative to the NGA meeting.

C. Accompanying Staff

Marilyn and I discussed this and we would recommend you consider the following:

Lew Thurston - Marilyn says most chiefs of staff attend and it is a good chance to meet the others.

Gary Stein - The Policy and Planning Office will interact significantly with the Federal Government on current issues, including the New Federalism initiatives.

Marilyn Thompson - and another staff person from the D.C. Office - essential staff

Carl Golden - As the newest Governor of a major state you will probably get much public attention, including direct coverage by major N.J. papers. Also, you may want to launch some initiatives. Carl can help with all of this.

Ed Hofgesang and/or Ken Biederman - regarding the New Federalism money impact.

Commissioners of departments which relate to your committee memberships and/or areas of particular interest.

Usual security staff and personal aide.

I would anticipate that it would be appropriate for some of these staff persons to attend only part of the Conference.

While you are away it is important to leave a strong staff contingent to oversee things in Trenton. Cary, Chris and Ken Merin should be able to handle this very well. There obviously is much reason for Cary to attend this and future NGS conferences too, but with a legislative session tentatively scheduled for the 22nd, he is probably the best person to leave in charge in Trenton this time.

D. Kean Public Statements and Initiatives

We should discuss any policy initiatives or statements you may wish to make in conjunction with the NGA meeting. You may anticipate that the N.J. press corps will be closely following your activity at the conference.