

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Forty-fourth Legislature – Second Regular Session

HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting
Friday, November 3, 2000
House Hearing Room 1 – 9:00 a.m.

(Tape 1, Side A)

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chairman McGibbon and attendance was noted by the secretary.

Members Present

Mr. Brotherton
Mr. Clark

Ms. Daniels
Mr. Hatch-Miller

Mr. McGibbon, Chairman

Chairman McGibbon stated that the Members' presence indicates that the Committee accepts a complaint filed by Representative Laura Knaperek with regards to Speaker Jeff Groscost. He announced that Representative Joe Hart has been given full authority by the Speaker to bring this matter to a resolution, and Mr. Hart appointed him as Chairman of the Committee for the duration of this Legislative Session (Attachment 1).

Chairman McGibbon read a letter dated October 27, 2000 from Mrs. Knaperek addressed to the previous Chairman, Representative Marilyn Jarrett (Attachment 2).

Chairman McGibbon read a letter dated October 30, 2000 addressed to the other Members of the Committee from Mr. Brotherton (Attachment 3).

Chairman McGibbon read a letter dated October 30, 2000 addressed to the other Members of the Committee from Mr. Clark (Attachment 4).

Ms. Daniels moved that the Committee does have jurisdiction to investigate the charges in Representative Knaperek's complaint; however, due to the current criminal probe being conducted by the Attorney General, she believes the Committee should wait to investigate these matters until the Attorney General completes and reports the results of her investigation. The motion carried.

Ms. Daniels moved that the House Ethics Committee advise Speaker Groscost that he should anticipate being called as a voluntary witness before

this Committee and that he should be prepared to discuss the following topics together with relevant documentation:

- A. All aspects of lobbying the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and his testimony before the United States Senate Finance Committee.**
- B. When did he learn that the program was over budget.**
- C. The promissory note for the Ford F150.**
- D. His relationship, including financial data, with Nathan Learner and AZ Star, as well as any other alternative fuel conversion company, alternative fuel producer, and any automobile dealership.**
- E. His discussions with the State or federal executive branch and executive agencies relating to the alternative fuels program.**
- F. Any aspect of the alternative fuels program.**
- G. Any and all communications, whether oral or written, with legislative or executive staff concerning alternative fuels or the alternative fuels program subject to any applicable privilege.**

The motion carried.

Ms. Daniels moved that while the Committee understands the legal sensitivity of the Attorney General's criminal probe, the Committee would still request that the Attorney General apprise the Committee as to a possible time frame for the culmination of her investigation as well as the scope of the investigation, and the Committee would also request that the Attorney General investigate campaign finance and financial reporting issues associated with Chapter 405. The motion carried.

Chairman McGibbon remarked that the Governor's Staff, the Arizona Department of Commerce (DOC), and the Arizona Department of Revenue (DOR) may have information that is relevant to the Committee's proceedings. He plans to draft a letter within the next week to 10 days to those entities asking for any applicable facts. He added that he has no authority to make the Governor or any of the agencies comply, but he believes everyone wants to bring this matter to a fair and just resolution so, hopefully, the agencies will cooperate.

Ms. Daniels moved to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Linda Taylor, Committee Secretary

(Original minutes, attachments, and tape are on file in the Office of the Chief Clerk. A copy of the minutes and attachment are filed with the Senate Secretary.)