

Advisory Opinion No. 75-5

QUESTION: It is proposed that a notice be printed at the expense of your Legislative Subcommittee and be mailed out along with the monthly billing of a certain statewide service provided through various private corporations through out the state. Said notice would inform the public that a Legislative Subcommittee is holding public hearings relevant to consumers of the service for which they are being billed. Insertion of such a notice is agreeable to the corporations selling the service and would add nothing to their cost. You ask whether such an insertion in the monthly billing would constitute a conflict of interest. Furthermore, you ask the approval of the Ethics Commission for doing such.

RESPONSE OF THE COMMISSION:

It is the opinion of the Nevada State Ethics Commission that we could not properly issue you an advisory opinion on the question submitted. The proposed action of your subcommittee as described in your question is not covered under the Conflicts of Interest Legislation. The legislation is concerned with investments, sources of income, property owned, misuse of knowledge from one's office, etc.; that is, with economic interests which might have a tendency to improperly influence such officials in the exercise of their office and public trust. The matter you describe is simply not pertinent to the scope of the law nor jurisdiction of this commission.

As regards the request for formal approval by the Ethics Commission of the proposed action, this Commission is not authorized by law to either approve or disapprove of conduct; we may only issue advisory opinions.

October 6, 1975