

Approved February 4, 1988
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Senator Gordon at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 3, 1988 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~

Committee staff present:

Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statute's office
Phil Lowe, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dennis Prater - Attorney for Kansas Department of Public
Disclosure
Earl Nehring - Common Cause/Kansas
Pete McGill - Pete McGill and Associates

The minutes of January 28, 1988 were approved by motion of
Senator Martin and second by Senator Strict.

SB 540 - concerning state governmental ethics; relating to registration
of lobbyists. Myrta Anderson reviewed the bill and said the bill
was introduced at the request of the Kansas Public Disclosure
Commission.

Dennis Prater, attorney for the Kansas Department of Public
Disclosure, said that SB 540 intended to address a very simple
problem. The problem is that when a lobbyist is employed by a
lobbying group or firm or is an employee or partner of an entity
which contracts to lobby, the lobbyist shall register on behalf of
each client of the group, firm or entity whose interest the lobbyist
represents, so that the legislature would know who they are representing
and also the public would know what special interest they are
representing at that point. It was brought to the attention of the
commission that a major lobbyist took the position that persons
employed by this lobbying firm should wear lobbying badges listing
the lobbying firm instead of the client's name and also the person
compensating the lobbyist for lobbying has been reported as the
lobbying firm rather than the firm's client.

Earl Nehring, speaking for Common Cause for Kansas, supported
SB 540 and the establishment of effective lobby regulation statutes
in Kansas. He further stated they have no position in the matter of
appropriate badges to be worn by lobbyists who are employees of
lobbying firms with multiple clients. Mr. Nehring also commented
that the badges are intended to make lobbyists readily identifiable
to legislators and administrators and what is effective for that
purpose is not a matter of public concern for them. Attachment 1.

Ron Thornburgh speaking for the Secretary of State's office said
their office has no opinion one way or another as they simply want to
do what the legislature chooses that they should be doing in regard
to the matter.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Elections,
room 522-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~am~~ p.m. on February 3, 1988

Pete McGill of Pete McGill and Associates, Inc., speaking against SB 540 distributed a handout of his lengthy testimony and said that he is complying with state lobbying statutes he helped write about a decade ago. Attachment 2. Mr. McGill said he bought individual badges for his lobbying clients but he prefers that they wear a badge that identifies them as representatives of McGill and Associates, Inc. He added that he hires the lobbyists and that they work for him and not the individual special interests his firm represents.

The Chairman announced that because of lack of time the hearing could continue at the next meeting, Wednesday, February 10, 1988, at 1:30 p.m..

The meeting was adjourned.



COMMON CAUSE / KANSAS

701 Jackson, B-6
Topeka, Kansas 66603
(Phone: 913-235-3022)

February 3, 1988

Statement in support of Senate Bill 540
presented to the Senate Committee on Elections
by Earl Nehring for Common Cause/Kansas

Common Cause/Kansas members support the establishment of effective lobby regulation statutes in Kansas. For us effectiveness results when regulatory statutes provide for full public reporting of lobbying activities and money expended in support of those activities, and when there are strong enforcement provisions in the statutes. By these criteria Kansas does not have effective lobby regulation.

S 540 is concerned with two aspects of lobby regulation which have served their purposes. These are the required registration of lobbyists and their visual identification in the Capitol. We understand the present statutory requirement to mean that a lobbyist is to register for each interest that lobbyist represents. In the case of employees of a lobbying firm or other contracting entity we believe this means the public record should show each employee engaging in lobbying registered for every interest involved. The proposed change in S 540 is intended to spell that out more clearly so we support it.

In the matter of appropriate badges to be worn by lobbyists who are employees of lobbying firms with multiple clients we have no position. The badges are intended to make lobbyists readily identifiable to legislators and administrators. What is effective for that purpose is not a matter of public concern for us.

Attachment 1
Senate Elections Committee
February 3, 1988

TESTIMONY OF PETE MCGILL
SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 3, 1988

Mr. Chairman - Members of the Committee

My name is Pete McGill of Pete McGill and Associates, Inc. I am President of the Corporation and own 100% of the stock. Our firm is totally devoted to public relations and lobbying. We have five lobbyists, two additional full-time support staff and two part-time.

Early in January I sent to each of you, and to all members of the legislature, the names of our lobbyists and a list of our clients, the same as I did last year.

I am pleased, extremely pleased, to have the opportunity to appear here this afternoon. I am not here as a proponent or opponent of SB 540. I am here because of a lifelong commitment to assist in making the legislature an equal branch of government as mandated by the constitution of the State of Kansas. I am here because of

Attachment 2
Senate Elections Committee
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February 3, 1988
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my strong convictions about protecting the integrity of the legislative process and that must include the responsibilities and activities of lobbyists and the responsibilities and activities of the Public Disclosure Commission.

I really think more than anything else, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to some comments and allegations that are of personal concern to me. If press reports are accurate, my personal motives have been challenged and my personal integrity questioned and I resent that very much. When the request was made to this committee for the introduction of SB 540, I am advised that statements were attributed to me that I believe are less than accurate.

As most of you know, I served in the legislature for 14 years. I have been in the lobbying business since the session of 1979.

In 1976, I was invited to Williamsburg, Virginia to receive an award on behalf of the State of Kansas for the most improved legislature in the United States. The award listed 32 changes or improvements in the Kansas legislative process during the prior two years. A copy of that award proudly hangs on the wall of the conference room in our office.

Among the thirty-two items listed was the enactment of lobbying control legislation.

That proposal was drafted by four legislators and legislative staff sitting around the table still present in Speaker Braden's office. Minority Leader of the House, Pete Loux; Robert F. Bennett, President of the Senate; Jack Steineger, Senate Minority Leader and I worked many hours drafting what we thought was an acceptable proposal. I believe I can recall as well as anyone about legislative intent.

This legislation was proposed not because any of us knew or even thought there was anything illegal or even unethical about lobbying activities. There was no immediate concern about any lobbying activities that would adversely reflect on the system. The fact was, there were no controls on lobbying activity.

It was our intent to provide for the registration of lobbyists with the Secretary of State, their clients, and provide appropriate reporting procedures for expenditures relating to lobbying activities.

That is precisely what the existing statutes state and that is what the legislature intended for them to do. I refer you to K.S.A 46-265 and K.S.A 46-270. The language of the law is very clear and precise.

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February 3, 1988
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Although all members of the commission do not agree with the conclusions of Mr. Abeldt in Opinion 87-25 before you, the last sentence states: "Any other interpretation clearly violates legislative intent."

I consulted with an attorney in October, 1987, and again in December, 1987, on this very issue. John Frieden, once appointed to the Public Disclosure Commission by Governor Carlin, emphatically advised me: "McGill, if you ask your lobbyist employees to register for anyone other than for Pete McGill and Associates, you are violating the law and you are asking them to violate the law". I will address that more in detail later.

Ron Smith, an attorney in our office for a number of years when I first started this business and now with the Kansas Bar Association, first called this discrepancy to my attention four or five years ago. He personally contacted the Commission and expressed our reservation and concern.

Prior to the start of the 1986 session, I wrote a memorandum to the leadership of the Kansas legislature, reporting to them how I planned to register the lobbyists employed by me. I sent a copy of that memorandum to the Public Disclosure Commission, the Secretary of State and all members of the legislature. You have a copy of that

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memo before you.

You also have a copy of a similar memorandum I sent to the same people in January, 1987. This memorandum also listed all of our employees that were lobbyists, as well as a list of all of our clients, even though I had personally registered all of our clients with the Secretary of State as required by law.

In each of those years, the Commission commented to the press - not me - that I was in violation of the law, so I did ask all of our people to register for our clients and pay the required \$15 fee for each lobbyist for each client.

This year, 1988, I was indicted, charged, convicted and sentenced without the benefit of notice or trial. The charges and conviction were eloquently reported in the press. You have copies of the reports of the December 28 meeting of the Commission as reported by the Associated Press.

Early in December, I don't recall the date because I wasn't there, the Commission held a meeting by telephone conference. They even had an agenda as required, but after completion of the agenda items, the staff decided to take up one other item - Pete McGill. I was not aware there was a problem nor was any member of the Commission

aware that I was to be on the agenda.

The press advised me the Commission discussed me, my firm and my activities for quite some time. The conclusion was there would be a special meeting called for December 28 to further discuss me and take some official action of some kind. I was never notified or asked to participate; although I personally, by name, was the principal topic of discussion in two meetings.

I would suggest to you, members of this committee, that is extremely unprofessional.

I now refer you to Public Disclosure Opinion 87-25 that is before you.

As you review this opinion, please keep in mind when my activities were first discussed by the Commission in early December, we were not required to register, yet, for 1988. In fact the Secretary of State had not even sent notification. However, by the time the opinion was discussed and approved on December 28, I had already registered all my clients and my employees as required by law. It was a matter of record with the Secretary of State.

Now read the first sentence of that opinion. Even though it was a matter of official public record and the Commission had that information, the opinion implies they

learned from sinister source about my registration.

Now take a look at the rest of the sentence. I would respectfully ask each of you to find any definition in the statutes of a "major" lobbyist or "minor" lobbyist or how the legislature intended to differentiate. I think everyone knows and believes that all the laws of Kansas are equally applicable to all the people of Kansas including lobbyists.

It appears quite obvious someone was doing a little editorializing by referring to a "major" lobbyist.

There appears to be additional indication that some part of the Commission or staff thought they should go beyond normal practices. The statutes specifically provide how the Commission should record public record of all opinions they issue.

K.S.A 46-254 states: "A copy of every opinion rendered by the Commission shall be filed with the Secretary of State, and any opinions so filed shall be open to public inspection. The Secretary of State shall publish all opinions rendered under this section monthly and each such publication shall be cumulative. Copies of each opinion shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House on the same date as the same are filed with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State

shall cause adequate copies of all filings under this section to be supplied to the state library."

However, on January 12, some two weeks after the opinion was issued, all lobbyists of record in 1987, apparently were mailed copies of the opinion by the Commission. Many lobbyists commented to me they had received copies of "my" opinion. Most of them also commented as well that the official opinion of the Commission appeared to confirm my position.

The Associated Press reported to me that Mr. Hayes, a member of the Commission had asked a member of his law firm to review the statute in contention. The lawyer is reported to have told Mr. Hayes that the statute is very clear - he agrees with McGill. The report also stated that both Mr. Hayes and Mr. Paxon, members of the Commission were not certain the opinion was consistent with the law.

I am quite concerned about comments made by two members of the Commission as reported in the article before you. Belva Ott, a member of the Commission is quoted as saying: "If he's allowed to get away with this, they're going to follow suit because they think it's unfair."

That statement seemed to imply that Belva has had some

type of complaint and also suggested I was trying to get away with something. If there are complaints, they should be recorded with the Commission and the statute provides explicit methods of dealing with complaints other than resolving the issue in the newspapers.

Abeltd, the Chairman of the Commission is quoted as saying: "People are already complaining about this type of lobbying operation, I think the public would oppose such a power structure."

Mr. Abeltd makes a very positive statement. I can only assume something is on file with the Commission that I don't know about.

The statement by Mr. Abeltd does concern me as he is an appointed member of the Commission. If the public is complaining about this type of lobbying operation, I am entitled to know what it is and I think you as legislators should know. He thinks the public would oppose such a power structure which seemed to imply I may be doing something wrong or illegal other than registrations. This concerns me.

You will note the article concludes with "I want them (legislators) to know who these lobbyists are lobbying for."

How much more can one do than to register for all the

clients, send a list of all the lobbyists and clients to the leadership, the Public Disclosure Commission, Secretary of State and all members of the legislature.

I, for one, think the legislators are perceptive enough to know a lobbyist when they see one, - especially since they are all required to wear badges - at least "major" lobbyists, whatever that is.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my position is very clear on this issue as stated in my memorandums of 1986 and 1987 and as expressed by an attorney, a former member of the Public Disclosure Commission.

However, for several years I have studiously avoided any confrontation with the Public Disclosure Commission. I have too much respect for the process to do otherwise. Our records will record that I have consulted with the Commission on numerous occasions on several subjects over the past six years.

I am fully aware of the high visibility of our lobbying firm and for that I am extremely proud. By the same token, I have been extremely careful and extremely cautious, not only about the clients we represent, but every facet of the lobbying profession.

I am proud to be a lobbyist and equally proud of the fine people we have associated with our firm. I think

each of you around this table know we take pride in the high standards of lobbying we maintain for ourselves and we demand no less from our clients. Information and integrity is all we have to offer and in all my years as a legislator or lobbyist I have never been questioned about those motives.

Contrary to statements I read in the press made by certain members of the Commission, we in our firm are all quite proud of the contribution we have made to the lobbying profession in Kansas.

Before I conclude, I want to graphically demonstrate how ridiculous I believe this confrontation is about.

Senate Bill 540 as amended now refers to badges instead of badge. When I leave the office in the morning and sometimes appear before 4 or 5 committees a day, talk with twelve, fifteen or twenty legislators on a variety of subjects, do I switch badges upon each occasion?

I really think there is a better way. I do believe every lobbyist should wear a badge, but I certainly find problems with the manner outlined in SB 540.

January 8, 1986

The Honorable Robert Talkington
President of the Senate
Statehouse
Topeka, Kansas 66612

The Honorable Mike Hayden
Speaker of the House
Statehouse
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Lobbyist Registration

Gentlemen:

This is to advise you of a change in our method of lobbyist registration for Pete McGill and Associates for 1986. I registered this week for all the clients that have formally retained this firm to date for lobbying services in 1986.

There are two additional lobbyists, members of this firm on an annual salary paid by me, Linda McGill and Charles "Chip" Wheelen. I asked them to register for Pete McGill and Associates, as opposed to them listing all the clients of the firm. Since they were not involved in negotiations with the client, and not necessarily aware of the amount of compensation or method of compensation; it seems far more appropriate for them to register for Pete McGill and Associates, since I retained their services and pay their salaries and expenses on an annual basis.

Quoting from the Kansas Public Disclosure Commission pamphlet on Kansas Laws Governing Lobbying, KSA 46-265 states: "Every lobbyist shall register with the secretary of state by completing a registration form prescribed and provided by the commission and by signing and verifying the same. Such registration shall show the name and address of the lobbyist, the name and address of the person compensating the lobbyist for lobbying, the purpose of the employment and the method of determining and computing the compensation of the lobbyist." (Emphasis added).

The same pamphlet refers to KSA 46-270 as follows: "The secretary of state shall obtain suitable name tags in two colors, of a size not smaller than two inches by three inches, to be fastened on the outside of the

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The Hon. Mike Hayden
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wearer's garmet with lettering adequate in size and clarity to be readable at a distance of three feet by individuals of normal vision, bearing the name of the lobbyist, the names of the persons compensating or appointing the lobbyist and the year." (Emphasis added).

Any lobbyist associated with this firm is hired by me, paid by me and reimbursed for their expenses by me. Many times they never have any contacts with my clients and my clients are in no way responsible for any portion of my employees compensation or expenses.

It is my contention any lobbyist associated with this firm would be in violation of the law if they were to register in the name of someone other than Pete McGill and Associates, if I hire them and provide for compensation and expenses.

As both of you know, I was directly involved with the drafting and enactment of the original lobbying control legislation. I thought it was necessary and good legislation then and continue to be just as supportive of the concept. It is not my intent to in any way attempt to circumvent the law. The purpose of the original act was, and I think continues to be, proper registration and reporting of all lobbying activity. This is provided for when I register for all of our clients and report all expenditures as required by law.

It is extremely important to the services we render and the work we do with the legislature that legislators, staff, press and other appropriate parties know these employees are members of my staff, hired by me and paid by me and not compensated by someone else, as would be inappropriately reflected on the lobbying badge if they registered for one of my clients.

I doubt that anyone envisioned the formation of a firm such as ours at the time the original legislation was drafted. We are unique and may be the only firm in Kansas with such a problem.

I have no major quarrel with the \$15.00 registration fee per client per person although I doubt anyone envisioned how it would apply to a firm such as ours. My major concern is that my employees continue to be permitted to register for Pete McGill and Associates, as opposed to several others with which they have no direct connection.

If there are questions about such registration, and I know there are, I respectfully request the appropriate committees of the respective houses be asked to review the appropriate statutes to clarify any questions.

Respectfully,

Pete McGill

cc: Public Disclosure Commission
Jack Brier, Secretary of State

January 6, 1987

Memorandum To: The Honorable Robert Talkington
The Honorable Jim Braden
The Honorable Mike Johnston
The Honorable Marvin Barkis

From: Pete McGill *PM*

Subject: Lobbying Registration

This is to advise the leadership of the House and Senate, with copies to the Public Disclosure Commission and the Secretary of State, as to how this firm has registered their lobbyists for 1987.

Kansas laws and regulations as published by the Secretary of State and the Public Disclosure Commission state the following:

"46-265. Every lobbyist shall register with the secretary of state by completing a registration form prescribed and provided by the commission and by signing and verifying the same. Such registration shall show the name and address of the lobbyist, the name and address of the person compensating the lobbyist for lobbying, (emphasis added) the purpose of the employment and the method of determining and computing the compensation of the lobbyist. . . "

"46-269. Each report under K.S.A. 46-268 shall disclose the following: (a) The full name and address of each person who has paid compensation for lobbying to the lobbyist or has paid for expenses of lobbying by the lobbyist. . ." (emphasis added)

"46-270. The secretary of state shall obtain suitable name tags in two colors, of a size not smaller than two inches by three inches, to be fastened on the outside of the wearer's garment with lettering adequate in size and clarity to be readable at a distance of three feet by individuals of normal vision, bearing the name of the lobbyist, the names of the persons compensating or appointing the lobbyist and the year . . ." (emphasis added)

Consistent with the statutes and regulations cited above, I have asked the four additional lobbyists of our firm to register with the Secretary of State for Pete McGill and Associates.

Memo. To: The Honorable Robert Talkington
The Honorable Jim Braden
The Honorable Mike Johnston
The Honorable Marvin Barkis

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I negotiated each of the agreements with each of our clients and the firm receives all the compensation. None of my employees were hired or receive any reimbursement from any of my clients. That is solely my responsibility.

I have personally registered with the Secretary of State for all the clients we represent as of January 1, 1987, and, of course, that is a matter of public record. A list of those is attached for your information.

The reason for this lengthy explanation is that it has been suggested I may not be complying with the statutes and regulations if my employees did not register for all my clients. I respectfully disagree with that interpretation and, in fact, believe we would not be in compliance with the law if they were to register other than what I have outlined.

I do plan to work with the Public Disclosure Commission and the appropriate legislative committees in seeking clarification of the statutes if needed.

Enclosure

PETE MCGILL & ASSOCIATES INC.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & BUSINESS CONSULTING

301 CAPITOL TOWER • 400 WEST EIGHTH • TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603.

913-233-4512

CLIENTS

Kansas Independent Bankers Association
Kansas Legislative Policy Group
Chemical Waste Management, Inc.
Kansas Funeral Directors Association
Control Data
Kansas Greyhound Racing, Inc.
Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems
Garden City Company
Mortgage Bankers of Greater Kansas City
Washburn University
Kansas Hospital Association
Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists
R.J. Reynolds
Farm Credit Council, Inc.
Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce

KANSAS PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

109 W. NINTH
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
PHONE: (913) 296-4219

December 28, 1987

Opinion No. 87-25

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

This opinion is issued by the Kansas Public Disclosure Commission pursuant to K.S.A. 46-254 which provides, in part, that the Commission may issue an opinion upon its own initiative.

It has come to our attention that a major lobbyist has again taken the position that those persons employed by his lobbying enterprise to lobby on behalf of his clients, should wear lobbying badges listing the lobbying firm, instead of the client's name. In addition, on the lobbyist registration statement, the person compensating the lobbyist for lobbying has been reported as the lobbying firm rather than the firm's clients.

The Commission disagrees with this position.

K.S.A. 46-265 states: "Every lobbyist shall register with the secretary of state by completing a registration form prescribed and provided by the commission and by signing and verifying the same. Such registration shall show the name and address of the lobbyist, the name and address of the person compensating the lobbyist for lobbying, the purpose of the employment and the method of determining and computing the compensation of the lobbyist. If the lobbyist is compensated or to be compensated for lobbying by more than one employer or is to be engaged in more than one employment, the relevant facts listed above shall be separately stated for each employer and each employment. Whenever any new lobbying employment or lobbying position is accepted by a lobbyist already registered hereunder, such lobbyist shall report the same on forms prescribed and provided by the commission before engaging in any lobbying activity related to such new employment or position, and such report shall be filed, when made, with the secretary of state. Whenever the lobbying of a lobbyist concerns a legislative matter, the secretary of state shall promptly transmit copies of each registration and each report filed under this act to the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives.

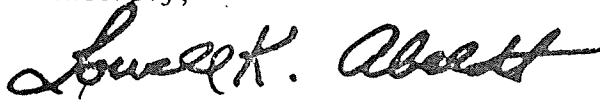
K.S.A. 46-270 states: "The secretary of state shall obtain suitable name tags in two colors, of a size not smaller than two inches by three inches, to be fastened on the outside of the wearer's garment with lettering adequate in size and clarity to be readable at a distance of three feet by individuals of normal vision, bearing the name of the lobbyist, the names of the persons compensating or appointing, the lobbyist and the year. The secretary of state shall present to each individual registering under K.S.A. 1974 Supp. 46-264 and K.S.A. 46-265 one such tag, and such tag shall be worn by the lobbyist when lobbying in the state capitol building."

It is clear that the purpose of the badge is to identify, for the person being lobbied and other interested persons, whose interest the lobbyist is representing. This purpose can only be accomplished by the badge stating the client of the lobbying firm, not the name of the firm.

In addition, it is clear that the purpose of the registration statement is to disclose the interests being represented. Merely reporting the name of the lobbying firm evades this disclosure.

We are satisfied that the phrase used in both K.S.A. 46-265 and 46-270, "the person compensating the lobbyist", means the client who is paying the firm for lobbying. Any other interpretation violates the clear intent of the act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lowell Abeldt". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Lowell Abeldt, Chairman
By Direction of the Commission

Panel wants lobbyist law clarified

By LEW FERGUSON
Associated Press writer

The state Public Disclosure Commission Monday approved an opinion saying lobbyists must wear badges clearly identifying the groups or companies they represent before the Legislature, and cannot hide behind a lobbying organization's name.

However, the commission acknowledged the wording of the state's lobbyist registration law is ambiguous, and also voted to ask lawmakers to clarify the statute to affirm its opinion and put some teeth in the law.

The opinion and request for an amendment was prompted by the declared intention of Duane "Pete" McGill, former speaker of the Kansas House and now head of Topeka's biggest lobbying firm, to have his employees register in the 1988 session only as representing his company, Pete McGill and Associates.

McGill started during the 1986 and 1987 sessions to register only under his company name the people he hires to lobby for the various companies and organizations he represents. But both times he relented after the commission opposed his po-

"We want them (legislators) to know who these lobbyists are lobbying for."

—Belva Ott

sition, registering them under the names of his clients.

The commission voted 4-0 during a meeting by telephone conference call Monday to require individual lobbyists, whether employed by a lobbying firm or not, to register under the names of the groups and companies they will lobby for during the 1988 session, and to wear identifying badges for those clients.

At the same time, the commission adopted a motion instructing its staff to ask the Legislature to amend the law to clarify the intent of the original act and to add sanctions to the law so the commission can enforce it.

Dennis Prater, the commission's attorney, conceded during Monday's discussion that because there are no penalties for violating the law, the most the commission could do would be to file a complaint calling attention to what it considers a violation.

Two commission members, John Hayes, a Hutchinson attorney who formerly served in the Kansas House, said Donald Paxson, a Topeka accountant, said they considered the present wording of the law ambiguous and were uncomfortable interpreting it the way the commission's opinion does without also asking the Legislature to clarify it.

Hayes said when the original law was passed in 1974 nobody contemplated having lobbying companies such as McGill and others have formed in the 1980s. He said he agreed the intent of the Legislature was to have lobbyists wear badges specifically identifying who they were lobbying for — not lobbying companies. However, he said he doesn't think the present language makes that clear.

There are several companies similar to McGill's, said Belva Ott of Wichita, another former legislator who now serves on the Public Disclosure Commission. She said if McGill can register his employees under his name and not under the names of the firms they will lobby for, others will do the same.

"If he's allowed to get away with this, they're going to follow suit because they think it's unfair," she said.

Hayes said he agreed with Ott's motion to approve the commission's advisory opinion and also ask the Legislature to amend the law.

"I want to get word to the (legislative) leadership that we consider the law ambiguous and we want guidance or an amendment," Hayes said.

Joining Ott and Hayes in voting for the opinion and motion were commission members Ralph Bussman, a former legislator from Mound Valley, and Chairman Lowell Abeltd of Abilene.

Paxson participated in early discussion but left the meeting to attend a funeral and did not vote.

Abeltd said he felt strongly about issuing the opinion.

"People are already complaining about this type of lobbying operation," he said. "I think the public would oppose such a power structure."

Ott, a former chairman of House Elections Committee, agreed.

"We want them (legislators) to know who these lobbyists are lobbying for," she said. "I'm afraid if we don't issue this opinion we're going to have a bunch doing the same thing."

anel proposes end to trade privileges

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House Economic Policy Council is recommending that President Reagan withdraw special privileges enjoyed by Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan that contributed to soaring trade deficits, The Washington Post reported Friday.

The newspaper, citing sources that it did not identify, said Reagan expected to approve the recommendation.

Trafficker testifies

Noriega borrowed jet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega borrowed a corporate jet from an American drug smuggler to fly to Washington for a 1983 meeting with President Reagan, Senate investigators were told.

The drug trafficker, Steven Michael Kalish, testified Thursday that he used bribes, kickbacks and other favors to make Noriega a "full-scale co-conspirator" in an elaborate scheme to launder profits from a Colombian marijuana and opium deals through Panamanian banks.

City council wants to hire manager

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP) — Saying they were tired of waiting for the outcome of a proposal to change the city's form of government, five members of the city council want to offer Interim City Manager Elaine Stickler the job on a permanent basis.

The council decided in December to delay hiring a city manager because of a petition drive aimed at changing the form of government from manager-council to mayor-council.



ROYALS THIRD BASEMAN Kevin Seitzer hands an autographed baseball to Terry Divine, Atchison, as his son, Todd, second from left, eyes his new prized possession expectantly. Seitzer and Royals manager

John Wathan were in Atchison Thursday. — Globe photo by Kent Nichols.

Senator criticizes Libertarians for filing suit

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The head of the state's Libertarian Party told the Senate Elections Committee Thursday a proposal to change Kansas' election laws would make things easier for minor parties.

Secretary of State Bill Graves proposed the changes after the Libertarian Party filed suit against him last September over sections of the law that deal with how members of minor parties can file for office and register to vote.

At the committee meeting, Sen. Joseph Norvell, D-Hays, criticized Libertarians for filing the suit rather than coming to the Legislature directly with their complaints. In addition, it costs taxpayer money for the

attorney general's office to defend the suit against the secretary of state, Norvell said.

However, Doug Merritt, chairman of the Kansas Libertarian Party, said the courts are his only tool to liberalize Kansas' election laws. Although legislators have always treated him respectfully, he has not got results from them, he said.

"We don't have the money or the clout," Merritt told Norvell. "Courts get their attention."

The bill would change three things. It would allow individuals to solicit signatures anywhere in their county when they circulate petitions to have a candidate placed on the

ballot. Currently, circulators of petitions are limited to gather just in their own precinct.

It also would change the filing date required for minor party candidates to the Monday before the primary election. Currently, minor parties must declare their candidates June 10, although Republicans and Democrats do not choose their candidates until the primary election, which is the first Tuesday in August.

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Dan Rice, a deputy assistant secretary of state, said courts have determined that similar requirements in other states are unconstitutional.

Sen. Dick Bond, R-Overland Park, asked Rice whether Graves expected the Libertarian's suit to be dropped if the Legislature approved the bill, but Rice said he couldn't comment on a pending lawsuit.

However, Merritt said plaintiffs in the suit had agreed to a continuance if the bill passes.

Around Town

Bergers learn stop at gas station fuels theft

by DONNA BOSSE

Do you ever remove your car keys from the ignition when you pump your own gas and go into the station to pay? Perhaps we should all start doing that. Last week, Joanne and Bob Berger were in Los Angeles, ready to drive to Las Vegas for the Shot Show.

Joanne left their brand new Ford Arrowstar mini-van to buy some fruit at the next door market and Bob went inside the station to pay for the gas. That fast a man jumped in the van and drove off!

Gone were all their leather samples for the show, business records that go back at least 30 years, not to mention their clothing and personal

valued at around \$4,000...

Mark Carol Diebolt is home from a buying trip to Dallas ... Max Donaldson: "It's still too cold to play golf." ... Maria Bishop has completed her third straight semester at Missouri University, Columbia, with a 4.0 average. She is majoring in secondary education. Maria is the daughter of John Bishop, the donut man, and Nila Bishop of Kansas City...

Regina Buttron: "Colds tend to clog one's thinking processes" ... Ann Judge is a new employee in the office of Dr. Lawrence Hart ... Evelyn Whitfield started her 22nd year with the Safeway Store last Sept. 6 ... Hubert Bell, now of Kansas City, was 86 on Jan. 26...

and grandsons, R.C. and Brian. Ruth recently took a temporary part-time job with the state department of Social and Rehabilitation Services...

Names of eligible bachelors are flooding in. Some new nominees are Hammy Alberts, Tom Kern, David Pickman, Jack Cummings, Gene Pitts, Joe Hammond, Bud Carrigan, Tom Wolters, Joe Fitzmaurice, Martin Asher, John Antle, Skip Loftin, Merlin Witt, Kenny Hartman, Johnny Hopkins, Jim Sacks, Ben Gerrish, Dr. Newton Jones, Bernard Cummins, Chuck Bigelow, Junior Niemann, Al Larson and Harold Dyer. Pay attention you ladies who would like to middle-aisle it in Leap Year...

Mr. and Mrs. George Gerardv are

ing with them...

Berney Whalen is recovering from a sick spell ... Francis Christ's favorite card game is pitch. "I am a sociable card player," Francis says, "and I usually hold good cards"...

Sherry Neill Kent of Fairfield, Texas, daughter of Gerry Neill of here, sent me a newspaper ad for a Couch Potato doll. The "overstuffed, squeezable pal who loves to sit, eat and watch the tube" comes in a burlap bag and costs one cent less than \$29!...

Belated birthday greetings to Lillian Potter in Cray Manor who celebrated Jan. 18 and to Amy Dunbar whose birthday was Jan. 21. Happy day to Pam Durkin tomorrow ... Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Heili celebrated their

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We plan to be very careful if we ever buy gasoline on the West Coast.

Senator criticizes Libertarians for filing suit

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—The head of the state's Libertarian Party told the Senate Elections Committee Thursday a proposal to change Kansas' election laws would make things easier for minor parties.

Secretary of State Bill Graves proposed the changes after the Libertarian Party filed suit against him last September over sections of the law that deal with how members of minor parties can file for office and register to vote.

At the committee meeting, Sen. Joseph Norvell, D-Hays, criticized Libertarians for filing the suit rather than coming to the Legislature directly with their complaints. In addition, it costs taxpayer money for the

attorney general's office to defend the suit against the secretary of state, Norvell said.

However, Doug Merritt, chairman of the Kansas Libertarian Party, said the courts are his only tool to liberalize Kansas' election laws. Although legislators have always treated him respectfully, he has not got results from them, he said.

"We don't have the money or the clout," Merritt told Norvell. "Courts get their attention."

The bill would change three things. It would allow individuals to solicit signatures anywhere in their county when they circulate petitions to have a candidate placed on the

ballot. Currently, circulators of petitions are limited to gather just in their own precinct.

It also would change the filing date required for minor party candidates to the Monday before the primary election. Currently, minor parties must declare their candidates June 10, although Republicans and Democrats do not choose their candidates until the primary election, which is the first Tuesday in August.

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