

1. That Commissioner Pomerleau was guilty of a substantial error of judgment in soliciting the assistance of Mr. Howard Muhl, a departmental employee, to secure private contractors to undertake repairs to a residence which the Commissioner was about to purchase. Any private relationship between employer and employee, particularly in a quasi-military organization, tends to encourage extraordinary efforts to please for the obvious reason of improving the employee's status. Therefore, the Commissioner should not have involved Mr. Muhl in his private problems.

2. The report convinces me that the Commissioner was at no time interested in obtaining anything of value at the expense of the City of Baltimore. He was clearly willing and able to pay the fair costs of services and materials utilized. I am equally convinced that he had no knowledge that police employees were working on his private property, as the record specifically shows that this was done contrary to his express instructions.

3. I am concerned about the loose accounting practices which the Attorney General's report reveals, and even more concerned to learn of the inaccurate and noncurrent time records of police employees. It is vitally important that these matters be tightened and brought to standard immediately. To this end, I would expect an early advisory report from the City Auditor and a clear and definitive statement of record reforms from the Commissioner himself.

4. The improprieties which have actually been committed rest for the most part on the shoulders of Mr. Howard Muhl. Nonetheless I find myself somewhat sympathetic to his position because most of his troubles result from a desire to be helpful to his superior. Inasmuch as he is a departmental employee, I do not reach a determination of his case. Such must be left to the appropriate departmental authorities.

The above recited conclusions result from a thorough consideration of the Attorney General's report. I commend the Attorney General and the members of his staff involved for an excellent and comprehensive investigation.

Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau is hereby censured and it is directed that a copy of this report become part of his personnel file. Because of the Commissioner's excellent record in the service of Baltimore City and the State of Maryland, no further action will be taken in this matter.