



**GONGWER**  
NEWS SERVICE, INC.

# OHIO REPORT

• Information Pertinent to Legislative and State Department Activities Since 1906

40 SOUTH THIRD STREET •

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215 •

TELEPHONE 221-1992

VOLUME 51 - REPORT NO. 306

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1974

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## 110TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### GOVERNOR GILLIGAN SIGNS CAMPAIGN FINANCE, ENERGY BILLS INTO LAW

Governor John J. Gilligan signed into law Tuesday legislation (Am.Sub.SB 46) that substantially strengthens state laws regulating political campaign spending and reporting practices, but expressed disappointment over the Legislature's inability to provide any meaningful limitations on campaign contributions.

Late Monday evening, Governor Gilligan signed the energy conservation bill (Sub. HB 206) into law, calling the product of several months of legislative groping to find a solution to the energy dilemma "*serviceable*."

*"There is no greater or more urgent challenge facing the people of this state or this nation than that of restoring public confidence in our system of free self-government,"* Mr. Gilligan said as he signed the campaign practices bill with several of the principal legislators who were instrumental in negotiating a compromise version of the proposal looking on. Representing the House at the signing were Speaker A. G. Lancione, Speaker Pro Tem Vernal G. Riffe, Majority Leader Barney Quilter, State Government Committee Chairman Michael Del Bane, and Rep. Patrick Sweeney, all Democrats. Senators Thomas Van Meter and Paul Matia, both Republicans, represented the Senate.

Governor Gilligan predicted that the revised campaign laws would "*banish from Ohio many of the shoddy campaign finance practices of the past and will take us another step toward restoring that public trust.*" Coupled with the recently-enacted code of ethics law for public officials, the governor noted that "*it provides us with a framework of law which establishes stringent ethical standards for politics and government in Ohio.*"

Fundamental revisions made in the state's current campaign conduct laws includes maximum spending limits on political candidates for most public offices, a requirement that a candidate maintain only one campaign committee to accept contributions and make expenditures, the establishment of an Elections Commission to enforce the law, and a requirement that candidates file pre-election and post-election spending reports.

Even though the Legislature failed to deal specifically with limiting campaign contributions, Governor Gilligan said he felt the legislation goes "*85 per cent of the way*" towards reforming campaign practices, adding that the last has yet to be heard about campaign reform. He blamed the Republican-controlled Senate for stalemating the special legislative session he called last year to enact a campaign reform law before this May's primary election. Republican Senators Van Meter and Matia denied the governor's claim, citing examples of Democratic hinderance of progress during that special session.

(Continued on Page 2)

GOVERNOR GILLIGAN SIGNS CAMPAIGN FINANCE, ENERGY BILLS INTO LAW (CONT.)

While signing the energy conservation bill, Governor Gilligan pointed out that the five-member Energy Emergency Commission will *"assure that Ohioans will have a workable plan of preparedness in the event an energy emergency strikes our state."*

The commission will have as members the governor as chairman, two legislators of different political parties and houses, and two members appointed by the governor to represent the public and energy producers or distributors. The commission's responsibilities will include:

- preparing legislation outlining contingency plans for conserving, allocating fuels or increasing supplies, and assuring proper use of fuels;
- preparing reports explaining the projected economic impact of proposed plans and inconsistency with existing rules and regulations of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and other state agencies;
- act as a liaison between state agencies and the federal government on energy affairs; and
- conduct public hearings, issue subpoenas, enter into service contracts and declare an energy crisis by a unanimous vote.

An 18-member Energy Advisory Council, required to meet monthly, will provide information to the commission on energy affairs.

Governor Gilligan indicated that his initial energy conservation plan, which provided for an energy administrator, probably would have served the state better, but that the legislation enacted by the General Assembly is *"serviceable."*

On other subjects, the governor declined to comment on the campaigns for the Democratic nomination of U.S. Senator, involving appointed-incumbent Senator Howard Metzenbaum and challenger John Glenn. Asked if he believed the campaign practices employed by both candidates are degenerating to a loathsome point, the governor said *"I'm not a referee in this."* Mr. Gilligan said he supported the Metzenbaum candidacy, but maintained that *"I'm going to refrain from commenting on others' campaigns."*

When asked to analyze his primary campaign against Clevelander James Nolan, the governor responded with *"what contest?"* Mr. Gilligan said he would debate former Governor James A. Rhodes if Mr. Rhodes wins the Republican gubernatorial primary, adding that *"debates are an essential part of the electoral process. I believe in them."*

Governor Gilligan also said that applicants continue to be interviewed for the jobs of Ohio Youth Commission and member of the Board of Regents. William Ensign recently resigned as Youth Commissioner and George Steinbrenner, under federal indictments for alleged illegal campaign contributions, resigned his seat on the Regents.

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Am.SB 457      Secret.    Authorizes Ohio University to transfer property owned by the Belmont Branch to Belmont County.    EFF. APRIL 22

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING BILLS WILL BE EFFECTIVE JULY 22

Am.SB 408      Jackson.    Equalizes vacations for county employees with those of state employees.

Sub.HB 206      Carney.    Creates an energy emergency commission and advisory council.

(Continued on Page 3)