

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

August 7, 1969

Honorable Farris Bryant
711 Barnett Bank Building
Jacksonville, Florida 32208

Dear Governor:

I have given serious thought to your wish to appoint a committee for the purpose of recommending a new Executive Director and your request that I serve as its Chairman.

While I agree that such a committee is desirable and would be willing to serve in the capacity you suggest, I do not think it is possible to propose a nominee in time for the September 19 meeting of the Commission.

I base this conclusion on the following considerations:

(1) It is essential to identify the best qualified candidates for the position and this, I believe, will require a secretariat able to make discreet inquiries for the committee and to handle confidential correspondence. I do not have such a resource available to me, and I want to speak with Bill Colman regarding his willingness to provide this service. If he is willing, Bill would be ideal both because of his familiarity with the requirements of the position and his deep interest in the Commission's future. Unfortunately, he has been on vacation, and I have not been able to contact him since receipt of your letter.

(2) The Congress will recess next week until after Labor Day, and I do not anticipate being able to call the committee together during this period.

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If agreeable with you, I will speak with Bill Colman after his return to Washington next week and, assuming he can provide the necessary assistance, shoot for a committee meeting in September after we have canvassed the field of potential candidates.

It might be most practical to arrange an initial meeting of the committee in conjunction with the Commission's September meeting. The committee might then be ready to submit its recommendation to the Commission at the next regular meeting, or at a special meeting if speed is essential.

Please let me know if the proposed arrangement is satisfactory.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

L. H.

L. H. Fountain

LHF:bt

If there are reasons why we must act before this meeting - Sept 19, and you feel you might be able to get the Committee together soon then in private for me, please don't hesitate to ask another member to serve as chairman. In fact I know of no one better qualified to serve in this capacity than you, Ms. Chairman.

Regards,
L. H.