

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



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OFFICE
OF
WALTER A. JONES
CHAIRMAN

PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE COMMISSION
HARRISBURG

March 2, 1942

Lt. J. N. Horan,
2100 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Lt. Horan:

Miss Frances K. Drobile, my former secretary, of whom I am sure you have personal knowledge relative to both ability and character, was for the past week working at the Naval Depot, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Her superior was Ralph W. Lawrence, Civilian Supervisor-in-Charge of administration and finances.

Information has been received by me that Mr. Lawrence's executive ability is tainted with personal ego, overbearing authority, and conduct unbecoming to a superior in the service of the United States government. If he is relating true facts, I believe his experiences in the tropics have influenced his mode of living, which is obstructing efficient operation of his office, and if he is not, he most certainly is a discredit, because his actions are a topic of conversation among many employees under his jurisdiction.

To cite what I consider not only embarrassing ethics of a supervisor, but most indiscreet conduct, on Friday, February 27th, he ordered the messenger or errand boy ("Cy") to purchase, during working hours, contraceptives for his personal use, and in great terms of elaboration, proceeded to explain the type he desired. It is common knowledge among all the employees that female secretaries or stenographers are, in his estimation, subject to his bidding.

Since this information was received second-handed, and my only interest is to prevent a service of the United States government receiving severe criticism among the residents of Harrisburg and the vicinity, I suggest that this alleged condition receive thorough consideration and/or an investigation through the use of an agent or authoritative female stenographer placed in the organization's office through the Unemployment Service.

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. T. Staats
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Assistant to the Chairman

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