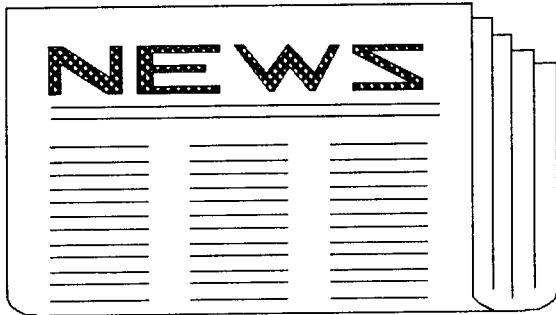


July 12, 1993



# **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **REDFIELD CALLS FOR MOLLOY TO REINSTATE GRIGG HOME NURSE**

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**REPUBLICAN SENATOR HOLLAND L. REDFIELD II TODAY QUESTIONED THE JUDGEMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSIONER JUEL MOLLOY REGARDING HER FIRING OF CAROL JOHNSON, A REGISTERED NURSE ON CONTRACT TO THE HERBERT GRIGG HOME FOR THE AGED.**

**REDFIELD SAID THE COMMISSIONER SHOULD HAVE HAD HER INVESTIGATIVE TEAM CONTACT HIM REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE SENATORS 10 P.M. VISIT TO THE GRIGG FACILITY. REDFIELD SAID THE COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT THAT NURSE JOHNSON "ALLEGEDLY GAVE HIM CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS" LED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THOSE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST JOHNSON WERE NEVER PROVEN BY INVESTIGATORS, YET THOSE CHARGES ARE NOW PUT FORWARD AS THE BASIS FOR HER DISMISSAL AFTER JOHNSON REPORTED VARIOUS ABUSES IN CARE FOR THE HOME'S 39 ELDERLY RESIDENTS.**

**"THE COMMISSIONER HAS UNFORTUNATELY PUT HERSELF IN THE POSITION OF JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER IN CARRYING OUT THE INVESTIGATION," REDFIELD SAID. EVEN SOME MEMBERS OF THE MOLLOY-APPOINTED INVESTIGATIVE TEAM FELT JOHNSON DID NOT DIRECTLY BREACH HER CONTRACT AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE REINSTATED, HE ADDED. THE SENATOR REMINDED COMMISSIONER MOLLOY THAT THE V.I. CODE CONTAINS "WHISTLE-BLOWER" STATUTES TO PROTECT ON-THE-JOB EMPLOYEES WHO REPORT GOVERNMENT WRONGDOING. "IT IS INDEED UNFORTUNATE THAT THE REPUTATION OF A WELL-QUALIFIED REGISTERED NURSE HAS BEEN TARNISHED."**

**REDFIELD SAID HE WANTED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT THAT AT NO TIME DURING HIS VISIT TO THE GRIGG HOME DID HE SEE CONFIDENTIAL PATIENT RECORDS. "NURSE JOHNSON WAS VERY PROFESSIONAL DURING MY VISIT, AND TOOK EVERY PRECAUTION TO ENSURE CONFIDENTIALITY, AND PHYSICALLY COVERED THE NAMES OF PATIENTS. I, PERSONALLY, WAS ALSO EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO PROTECTION OF PRIVACY RIGHTS, AND WELL AWARE THAT THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION WAS NOT IN MY PURVIEW," REDFIELD SAID. AT NO TIME DURING THE VISIT DID I ENTER A ROOM OCCUPIED BY A RESIDENT, THE SENATOR SAID.**

**REDFIELD SAID IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THAT THE INVESTIGATION, IN THE END, WAS "JUST A PRIME EXAMPLE OF SHOOTING THE MESSENGER BECAUSE THE MESSAGE ITSELF WAS UNPLEASANT."**

**“IF THERE IS NOT A SENSITIVE RESOLUTION TO THIS, AND THE NURSE IS NOT REINSTATED TO HER JOB, I AM PREPARED TO TESTIFY IN HER BEHALF IN HER QUEST TO REGAIN HER FORMER JOB AND RESTORE HER REPUTATION,” REDFIELD SAID. THE SENATOR REMINDED THE COMMISSIONER THAT AS AN INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATOR, AND THE LEGISLATURE AS AN INSTITUTION, HAS BROAD OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY.**

**THE TRADITIONAL CHECKS AND BALANCES BETWEEN LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTIONS ARE DIRECTLY CHALLENGED BY THE FIRING, REDFIELD SAID. ANY SENATOR, OR ANY COMMITTEE EMPOWERED BY THE LEGISLATURE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE OR REVEAL DEFICIENCIES IN ANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, AND POSE SOLUTIONS.**

**“IN THIS LIGHT, I HAVE REQUESTED THE LEGAL COUNSEL OF THE LEGISLATURE TO ISSUE AN OPINION ON THESE LEGISLATIVE POWERS, AND DEFINE CLEARLY THE SCOPE OF THIS AUTHORITY,” REDFIELD SAID. “FURTHER, I PLAN TO MAKE A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN SERVICES REPORT ON THE GRIGG HOME, AND REPORT INDEPENDENTLY ON MY OWN FINDINGS.”**

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