

July 15, 1947

LAW LIBRARY
ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. Harry W. Hill, Commissioner,
State Department of Social Security & Welfare,
39 North Sixth Avenue,
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Hill:

We have your request for an opinion regarding the payment of a claim for expense incurred by the Welfare Board in sending telegrams to Arizona's members in Congress relative to Federal appropriations for old age assistance recipients in Arizona.

This office has on several occasions in the past expressed the opinion that telegrams to our Arizona Congressional delegation in Washington urging the passage of legislation by Congress is lobbying and therefore clearly outside the legal duties of any state officer or department.

However, telegrams which merely request information from members of Congress are legitimate expenditures of state money.

It is therefore our opinion that the two telegrams attached, one to Senator McFarland, dated April 2, 1947, and the other addressed to all four members of the Arizona Congressional delegation, dated April 23, 1947, constitute lobbying and are therefore not a proper expense of the Arizona Board of Social Security and Welfare. All of the other telegrams appear to be for legal purposes and are therefore legitimate claims against the state.

Very truly yours,

John L. Sullivan,
Attorney General

Perry M. Ling,
Assistant Attorney General

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