

March 11, 1953

The Honorable Hubert Merryweather
President of the Arizona State Senate
Capitol Building
Phoenix, Arizona.

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ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Senator Merryweather:

This letter is in reply to your request as to whether the present Special Legislative Committee on State Operations has the authority to conduct investigations into the affairs of the State and can expend sums therefor in such investigation.

Chapter 3 of the 1951 Session Laws of Arizona created the Special Legislative Committee on State Operations and set out therein the duties of the Committee, together with an appropriation of \$85,000.00.

Chapter 98 of the 1951 Session Laws of Arizona provides that the President of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House, may at any time when the Legislature is not in session call a meeting of any standing legislative committee appointed according to law and such committee shall have the powers conferred by law upon legislative committees, which said powers are found in Sections 2-301 to 2-304 of the Arizona Code Annotated, 1939, those powers being the right to punish offenses, subpoena witnesses and other regulatory provisions.

The foregoing statements and citations would indicate clearly that the present Interim Committee has the power and the authority to make any investigations ordered by the President of the Senate and the Speaker or the House, and that such Committee would have all the powers of a regular committee authorized by law to take testimony to employ such assistants as is necessary to expend the balance of the \$85,000.00 appropriation authorized in Chapter 3 of

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the Session Acts of 1951.

This Department is of the opinion that any other committee, other than the standing committees, or the ones heretofore authorized by law, would necessarily have to be created by an act of the Legislature, its powers enumerated and the appropriation made therefor.

Very truly yours

RFJ/W

53-18-L