

should secure the approval of the Budget Committee and the Governor of the state.

Therefore, whether or not it is necessary for the University to secure the approval of the Budget Committee and the Governor of the state prior to the purchase of real estate for educational or housing purposes will depend entirely upon the source of the funds to be employed for that purpose and will have to be determined by the facts in each instance.

It is, therefore, my opinion that executory contracts for the purchase of real estate as referred to in your letter of October 16 are within the corporate powers and authority of The Trustees of Indiana University.

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OFFICIAL OPINION NO. 69

November 14, 1952.

Mr. Herbert P. Kenney, Director,  
Indiana Legislative Bureau,  
State House,  
Indianapolis 4, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

I have your request for an official opinion which reads as follows:

"The Metropolitan Area Study Commission created by Chapter 215 of the 1951 Acts, has pursuant to Section 6 of said Chapter, deposited 775 copies of its report with the Legislative Bureau.

"Section 6 provides 'for distribution of the same by the Bureau to each member of the Eighty-eighth Session of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana and to civic groups or similar organizations that may request copies of the report'.

"In view of the fact that the General Assembly has designated who are to be recipients of copies of this report, the Legislative Bureau would like an opinion from your office on the following questions:

## OPINION 69

"Is the Legislative Bureau restricted to furnishing copies of the report only to members of the 88th General Assembly, to civic groups or to similar organizations?"

"What is meant by the words 'or similar organizations' used in this act?"

Section 6 of Chapter 215 of the Acts of 1951 to which you refer reads as follows:

"Upon the completion of the survey contemplated by this act, the commission shall make and file with the governor a final report of its findings and recommendations by not later than November 1, 1952. Sufficient copies of the report shall be printed under the direction of the chairman of the commission and deposited by him with the Indiana Legislative Bureau prior to November 1, 1952, for distribution of the same by the bureau to each member of the Eighty-eighth Session of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana and to *civic groups* or similar organizations that may request copies of the report." (Our emphasis.)

The phrase "civic groups or similar organizations" does not appear to have established technical meaning. In trying to find comparable terminology used in other statutes I find that the term "civic leagues or organizations" is used in the United States Internal Revenue Code, 26 USCA 101(8). The only limit to this term seems to be from context and other conditioning words. The term itself has been construed to be quite broad. See *Debbs v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue* (1945), 148 Fed. (2d) 948, holding that a corporation organized for the purposes of disseminating liberal and progressive social views was a civic organization within the meaning of the Federal statute. In the case of *United States v. Pickwick Electric etc. Corporation*, C. C. A. Tenn., 158 Fed. (2d) 272, 276, it was pointed out that the term "civic league or organization" encompassed all organizations embodying the idea of community cooperation to permit general welfare of the people.

Webster's New International Dictionary, 2nd Edition, defines "civic" as having three primary meanings, (a) relating or pertaining to a citizen, (b) pertaining to a city or other

municipality, and (c) relating to citizenship or to membership in society. With these somewhat indefinite standards in mind, examining the words of the statute at issue, it is clear that a single private individual for his own personal use would have no right to a copy of the report in question. However, almost any public group which could conceivably be interested would appear to be within the scope of the very broad classification of civic groups or similar organizations whether that group was incorporated or unincorporated, temporarily or permanently associated, interested in problems over a long period of time or certain immediate problems, all which appear to be readily classifiable as designated groups.

Thus, to summarize, it is my opinion that these reports may be given only to those organizations authorized by statute. However, any group having a public interest would appear to be eligible to receive a copy of the report.

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OFFICIAL OPINION NO. 70

November 14, 1952.

Mr. Joe W. Green,  
State Veterinarian,  
Indiana State Livestock Sanitary Board,  
Room 477 State Board of Health Bldg.,  
1330 West Michigan St.,  
Indianapolis 2, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

I have your request for an official opinion which reads as follows:

“This office has been encountering some difficulty in getting prosecuting attorneys in the various judicial circuits to take proper action on matters involving criminal violations of laws and regulations, pertaining to Disease control and eradication in livestock, which this Division of State Government, is charged with the responsibility of enforcing.

“There seems to be a reluctance in a great many instances, upon the part of the prosecutors to take any