

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**SPECIAL COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL RESTRUCTURING**

October 25, 1991

**To:** Commission Members

**From:** Mert Henry and Don Nicoll

**Subject:** Committee Working Papers and Subsequent Products

First a reminder: the meetings on November 1 and November 8 will be devoted to producing a draft final report to be distributed for comment at public hearings. At the end of the meeting on November 8, we must sign off on a final report draft so that the staff may prepare it for distribution.

We have included in this mailing copies of the Committee Working Papers submitted for use in the draft report. We thank you for your efforts to put your work into the final report outline; the staff did an excellent job translating your work into these materials.

Along with the working papers we have sent you a breakdown of all committee recommendations into the chapters of the report outline. We are concerned that this breakdown shows that we still must face some tough questions and choices if our final report is to measure up to the Commission's mandate.

In memos to you and discussions with you over the last two months, we stressed the following: The Commission must produce recommendations that will support a continuing process for evaluating programs, setting priorities, making choices, initiating resource corrections and reallocations, and achieving substantial efficiencies, improved effectiveness, and cost-savings over the mid to long term.

At the same time, if our final report is to have the focus and impact expected, the Commission must face the difficult questions confronting state government today. Some of our recommendations must propose decreased expenditures. Some of our proposals must entail changing the current structure and operation of state government. On November 1 and 8, we must, all together, generate a draft report that meets our mandate.

Toward that end, we will be sending you, at the beginning of next week, an agenda for November 1 and our suggestions on a draft report for discussion. That draft will follow the enclosed outline, and use much of the discussions, findings, and recommendations from the Committee Working Papers grouped under chapters III, IV, and V. That draft will also include some additional issues we feel the Commission must address.

Some of your work, particularly recommendations falling under the "Other" chapter, will not appear in that draft. The intent is not to exclude them from the final report, but to focus our attention on major issues. We will discuss and debate the report draft and other issues Commission members wish to bring up on November 1.

We stress again that our final report will only have real content and impact if chapters III, IV, and V contain significant recommendations. We hope you will find a block of time next week to thoroughly review the draft we will be sending you so that our discussion on November 1 will be focused. We ask that you consider the following in preparation for our next meeting: What one recommendation is most important to you for inclusion in the final report? What one recommendation is most important to you for exclusion?

Thank you again for your past and continuing efforts to fulfill a difficult assignment.