

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 1033

By: Paulk, Cotner, Crocker and
York

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution relating to a study and investigation of David Walters, Governor of the State of Oklahoma; creating a Special Investigating Committee to conduct a study and investigation; stating purpose; providing for appointment of committee members; authorizing contracts with necessary personnel; providing for authority and duties; providing for service of process and witness fees; providing for interim reports; and requiring a report of findings and recommendations.

WHEREAS, after a sixteen-month investigation, a multicounty grand jury issued a nine-count indictment against Governor David Walters, including one misdemeanor count and eight felony counts, for various campaign contribution violations; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 1993, Governor David Walters entered a plea of guilty to count one in the indictment, a misdemeanor charge of violating the Campaign Compliance and Ethical Standards Act, in exchange for, among other things, the dismissal of the eight felony counts in the indictment; and

WHEREAS, on December 9, 1993, the multicounty grand jury filed its final report in the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma urging the Legislature to expeditiously undertake impeachment proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the multicounty grand jury investigation and report, the issuance of the indictment and the guilty plea have raised

questions and brought information to the attention of the members of the House of Representatives of the Oklahoma Legislature that Governor David Walters has possibly committed impeachable offenses; and

WHEREAS, honest and faithful conduct of the executive branch and the confidence of the citizens in the Office of the Governor is of paramount importance to all citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has the duty to ensure the people of the State of Oklahoma that their public officials are performing their constitutional and statutory duties and obligations; and

WHEREAS, it is a proper constitutional function of the Legislature to conduct studies and investigations on the conduct and administration of state officials in the discharge of their duties and on the merits of these acts in regard to public policies of the state, and to prepare and submit suggested remedies, including possible impeachment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a Special Investigating Committee of the House of Representatives. The purpose of the Special Investigating Committee shall be to conduct a comprehensive and detailed study and investigation of the activities of David Walters, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, to determine whether Articles of Impeachment should be preferred against the Governor. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the members of the Special Investigating Committee.

SECTION 2. The Special Investigating Committee, with the approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, may contract with attorneys, investigators, court reporters and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Special Investigating Committee.

SECTION 3. The Special Investigating Committee shall be empowered to issue all process known to courts of record, including the power to subpoena witnesses, documents and records; administer oaths; take and record testimony; and to request punishment for contempt for any disobedience of process and any contumacious or disorderly conduct as provided in Article V, Section 42 of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma.

SECTION 4. For the purpose of serving all process directed by the Special Investigating Committee, the Sergeant at Arms and the Assistant Sergeants at Arms of the House of Representatives are hereby designated as service officers to serve without additional compensation, except for necessary travel expense that may be incurred in the performance of their duties as service officers.

SECTION 5. Witness fees, as required by the laws of this state, shall be paid from funds appropriated for the operation of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 6. The Special Investigating Committee may make such interim reports to the House of Representatives in open session from time to time as the Chairman of the Committee shall deem advisable prior to the submission of the report of the Committee.

SECTION 7. The Special Investigating Committee, at the conclusion of its investigation, shall submit a written report to the House of Representatives of the Oklahoma Legislature, which shall include its findings and its recommendations for any action deemed necessary.

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