

April 9, 1990

committee has decided not to make the tapes available to the public. However, Mr. Speaker, it is apparent that the members of this body, who created our committee and who have appropriated funds for its investigation, are entitled to see the tapes and to discuss the investigation with the committee, its counsel and its investigator. It makes no sense to keep from this body information which apparently is available to the public at large. Mr. Speaker, the tapes of the three victim witnesses have held the media attention for some time. To read press accounts of these tapes, you would be led to believe that these tapes are the sum product of the committee's existence. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our investigation has been thorough and encompassed many issues. We have reviewed law enforcement's earlier investigation of criminal wrongdoing associated with the failure of the Franklin Credit Union. We have followed the money trail in connection with our cooperation with the NCUA. We have considered, drafted and sponsored legislation dealing with the problems associated with the criminal prosecution of child abuse cases. We have accumulated documentary and other evidence concerning allegations of criminal wrongdoing in this matter and have scrutinized it carefully. After this session is concluded, we plan to hold public hearings on a variety of topics, including issues raised by the existence of this committee and lessons to be learned when the Legislature must act because of public mistrust in the integrity of another co-equal branch of the government. Conducting this investigation has not been a pleasant experience. Being responsible for dealing with the type of information we have uncovered has been a humbling experience. Our investigator, in whom we have the utmost faith, has dealt with the complexities of this investigation in a reasonable manner, considering the limitations upon the investigative resources available to this committee. Our counsel has assisted us in organizing our agenda and in making recommendations to assist us in trying to do the right thing. Admittedly, our sympathies have been with the victims of the alleged crimes, not the alleged perpetrators. Although we are not unmindful of the rights of the accused, we had hoped that the investigation would be of the alleged wrongdoers, not the victims. Whether that will be the case, remains to be seen. In the final analysis, the fruits of the committee's efforts may not be known or understood for some time. In the meantime, it is apparent to the committee that a briefing of the full Legislature is appropriate. Such a briefing about our work will have two positive aspects. First, it will provide each of you with an

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