

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 145

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 20, 1997

By Assemblymen DeCROCE, BODINE and Geist

- 1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging U.S. Attorney General to conduct a
2 preliminary investigation into various fundraising improprieties in the recent
3 federal election campaign and, if that investigation so warrants, to apply for
4 appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate fully those improprieties.
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- 6 WHEREAS, Recent press reports have raised substantial and troubling
7 questions as to whether foreign money and foreign influence have infiltrated
8 the American political process through the medium of money from external
9 sources that has been laundered through various groups for payment to the
10 national committee of the President's political party to support his campaign
11 in the 1996 presidential election; and
- 12 WHEREAS, According to law enforcement officials, communications between
13 Beijing and Chinese officials in the United States that were monitored by
14 the National Security Agency suggest that the Chinese government had a
15 concerted plan to influence American elected officials, possibly through the
16 funneling of money to American politicians; and
- 17 WHEREAS, One of the agents who served as a conduit for these allegedly
18 laundered contributions was John Huang, a Chinese-born executive
19 employed by the Lippo Group, which is an Indonesia-based conglomerate
20 having large business interests in China and controlled by the Riady family,
21 likewise native to China; and
- 22 WHEREAS, The fundamental purpose of the federal independent counsel law,
23 Pub.L.95-521 (28 U.S.C. §591 et seq.), is to ensure that serious
24 allegations of unlawful conduct by federal executive officials are subject to
25 review by counsel independent of any incumbent administration, Dellums
26 v. Smith, D.C.Cal.1984, 577 F.Supp. 1449; and
- 27 WHEREAS, This law provides that upon receipt of information sufficient to
28 constitute grounds therefor, the Attorney General of the United States shall
29 conduct a preliminary investigation of whether any of certain enumerated
30 federal officials, among whom are the President and Vice President, may
31 have violated federal criminal law; and
- 32 WHEREAS, If the Attorney General decides, on the basis of that investigation,
33 that there are reasonable grounds to believe that further investigation is
34 warranted, she shall apply to the special division of the court for the
35 appointment of an independent counsel, 28 U.S.C. §592(c)(1)(A), upon

1 receipt of which application, the division of the court shall appoint an
2 appropriate independent counsel and define that independent counsel's
3 prosecutorial jurisdiction, 28 U.S.C. §593(b)(1); and

4 **WHEREAS**, The law further provides that the Committee on the Judiciary of
5 either House of the Congress may request in writing that the Attorney
6 General apply for the appointment of an independent counsel, 28 U.S.C.
7 §592(g)(1); and

8 **WHEREAS**, From the press reports referred to above and others, there
9 appears to be ample basis for the Attorney General to open a preliminary
10 investigation of possible involvement of federal officers in criminal acts
11 under federal law in connection with contributions by foreign donors and
12 their agents to the re-election campaign of the President and Vice President
13 of the United States; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Moreover, the Senate Judiciary Committee has given notice that it
15 wishes the Attorney General to undertake such an investigation; now,
16 therefore,

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18 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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20 1. This House hereby urges the Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General
21 of the United States, to undertake a preliminary investigation into the numerous
22 alleged fundraising improprieties in the recent presidential election campaign,
23 with particular attention to the issue of the solicitation and acceptance of illegal
24 contributions from foreign sources, and, if that investigation so warrants, to
25 apply to the special division of the court responsible for the appointment of
26 special prosecutors to make such an appointment.

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28 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of
29 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly,
30 shall be transmitted to the Attorney General of the United States and to every
31 member of the Congress of the United States elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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36 This resolution urges the Attorney General of the United States to
37 undertake a preliminary investigation into various fundraising improprieties in
38 the recent federal election campaign and, if that investigation so warrants, to
39 apply to the special division of the court responsible for the appointment of
40 special prosecutors to make such an appointment.

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- 2 Urges U.S. Attorney General to conduct preliminary investigation of federal
- 3 election campaign fundraising improprieties and, if appropriate, to apply for
- 4 appointment of special prosecutor.