

Was Green Right?

One Day Later, and Carter's IHL Commissioner Claim Looks More Like "Fraud"

Yesterday's (30-May-07) report on EFIB Chair George Carter's claim to have been the Interim Commissioner of the IHL (in 1987) contained an interesting dialogue between economists Trellis Green and Charles Sawyer. Green's take on Carter's claim was that the it represented (resume) fraud, while Sawyer offered the reduced charge of (resume) "puffery" as a counter to Green. Neither claim is complimentary of Carter, and the points-of-view from one (Green) to the other (Sawyer) are about as widely spaced as possible. Green had to file a lawsuit against Carter (in 1994) in order to get promoted to associate professor, a case Green ultimately won out of court in 1997, while Sawyer has been a Carter apologist/sympathizer throughout both of Carter's terms as EIB/EFIB chair (i.e., 1989-1997, and 2005-present). So, the idea that Carter's claim falls somewhere on the line from puffery to fraudulent, coming from these two, is a staggering indictment of the CoB's former ethicist-in-residence (Carter).

Which is it, fraud or puffery? A reader of USMNEWS.NET sent in material obtained from Mississippi's IHL Offices that offers support for the claim of fraud. Below we have inserted a table showing the past IHL executives, beginning with J.A. Ellard in 1944.

Terms of Office Executive Secretary/Commissioner of Higher Education

NAME	STARTED	ENDED
Mr. J. A. Ellard (Executive Secretary)	June 14-15, 1944	August 1, 1945
Dr. Euclid R. Jobe (Executive Secretary)	August 1, 1945	June 26, 1968
Dr. Edsel E. Thrash (Executive Secretary)	June 26, 1968	November 30, 1987
Dr. W. Ray Cleere (Commissioner)	December 1, 1987	June 30, 1995
Thomas D. Layzell, Esq. (Commissioner)	July 1, 1995	April 15, 2003
Dr. David L. Potter (Commissioner)	March 10, 2003	November 30, 2004
Dr. Richard A. Crofts (Interim Commissioner then Commissioner)	December 1, 2004	September 30, 2005
Dr. Thomas C. Meredith (Commissioner)	October 1, 2005	September 30, 2009

As you can clearly see, there is no entry for G.H. Carter III, the EFIB's own George Carter. Besides the fact that Carter's name does not appear in the table (a big fact!),

there are a number of things about the table that cast doubt on Carter's claim to have served as the Interim Commissioner of Higher Education:

1. The table above does include the term "Interim," as the entry for Dr. Richard A. Crofts indicates. Thus, Carter could not state that the omission of his own name is due to the inclusion of permanent IHL commissioners only.
2. There are no holes in the table. Each ending date matches up with each subsequent beginning date. Thus, omission of Carter's service would not have occurred given the presentation of a complete table, including the period around 1987.
3. Until 1-Dec-87, the term "Commissioner" is not used. Instead, the executives of the IHL were referred to as "Executive Secretary." Thus, for about the first 92 percent of 1987 – the year Carter claims to have been the Interim IHL Commissioner – the term "Commissioner" – the term used by Carter – was not yet in use.

This is the kind of activity that results in scandals, as reported by news media throughout the country. This is the very thing – the claim by former USM V.P. Angie Dvorak to have been a tenured faculty in English at the University of Kentucky – that snowballed into the scandals that plagued Shelby Thames' USM Presidency from 2003-2007.

With the table above, this episode appears to be snowballing. Now, let's answer the question in the title with another: Who knows what Carter is all about better than Green?