

TO: Governor

DATE: April 3, 1985

FROM: Gerry Thompson

SUBJECT:

Yes, tonight Gary Wilhelms will be with you at the Meekers. Ray Gribbling will not be there.

The approach I thought I would take with Gary and Ray, if you had consented to me talking with them, was confront them with the fact I had two choices: either talk to Larry Wolfard and Jim Steiver or talk directly to Gribbling and Wilhelms. Explain to them the Governor was getting more and more rumors that Gary and Ray are working to defeat General Services budget, either in full Ways & Means or on the floor of the Senate. Time and again we have been assured that it is Gary's and Ray's own activity. Even as of this morning, we were told that the game plan was to defeat the budget on the Senate floor, send it back to W&M at which point they would strip out the amount allowed for the telecommunications budget.

Apparently, although not confirmed, General Services budgeted somewhere in the neighborhood of \$21 million and the GTE bid comes in at \$12 million.

I would have then shared with Gary and Ray that if the rumors were true, we were very disappointed and would ask them if they were acting at the direction of Wolfard and Steiver, for if they were, maybe the Governor would have to discuss the matter with Wolfard and Steiver.

I give you this because it does appear you will be with at least Wilhelms tonight. The budget goes to full W&M Friday and no one will deny that there is a move afoot to defeat the budget.