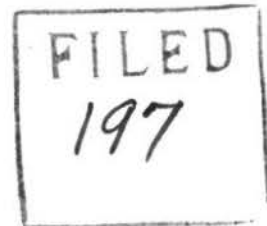


April 21, 1971

Answer by letter-Mansur

OPINION LETTER NO. 197



Mr. Richard M. Miller, Secretary  
Board of Police Commissioners  
1200 Clark Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

Dear Mr. Miller:

This is in response to your request for an opinion from this office regarding the authority of the St. Louis Police Officers Association to propose legislation or modification of legislation and in lobbying before the state legislature concerning salaries and fringe benefits for the police, and whether the association must have prior approval of the Board of Police Commissioners before engaging in such activities.

We are enclosing herewith Letter Opinion No. 144 issued by this office on March 6, 1970, to Honorable Leon M. Jordan, State Representative, Kansas City, Missouri, which we believe answers the first three questions you have submitted.

In answer to your question whether the St. Louis Police Officers Association must obtain prior approval of the St. Louis Police Board before engaging in such activities, it is our opinion that it does not need prior approval. If the Police Board is required to obtain prior approval before engaging in such activities, the Board of Police Commissioners in denying it such rights, would in effect prevent it from exercising the authority it is legally entitled to exercise.

Mr. Richard M. Miller

We trust this answers the questions you have submitted, and if you have any further questions, please feel free to submit them.

Yours very truly,

JOHN C. DANFORTH  
Attorney General

Enclosure: Op. No. 144  
3-6-70, Jordan