

1/4/73

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
COLUMBIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

On December 15, 1972, I received a letter from Senators Allen R. Carter and Thomas Dewey Wise, requesting that I withhold the commission of Charleston Coroner-elect Kenneth Chue, pending the outcome of an investigation into his alleged malfeasance in office while serving as Deputy Coroner of Charleston County. The letter further asked I direct the State Law Enforcement Division to assist in that investigation.

Based on the initial SLED report which was presented to me December 29, I announced on December 30 that I would withhold Mr. Chue's commission. On January 2, 1973, Mr. Chue was indicted by the Grand Jury on the charge of grand larceny.

Section 50-10, 1962 Code of Laws of South Carolina as Amended, reposes in the Governor the authority to suspend a public official who is duly indicted for any crime, and my policy has consistently been to exercise that authority in the interest of maintaining the respect of the people for good, honest government. However, Mr. Chue has publicly taken the position that he has not legally qualified to serve as Coroner of Charleston County and therefore is not subject to the provision cited above. It is clear, therefore, that whether Mr. Chue has legally qualified for the office or not, he should not be allowed to serve in the office of Coroner until a judicial determination of the charges against him is made by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Therefore, in view of the above stated facts and, under the authority vested in me by Sections 50-10, 17-57 and 14-302, 1962 Code of Laws of South Carolina as Amended, I do hereby declare the Office of Coroner of Charleston County to be vacant and do hereby appoint Dr. John F. Reynolds to fill that vacancy until such time the appropriate determination of guilt or innocence of Mr. Chue is made.



Given under my Hand and Seal of the Executive Department at the Capital, Columbia, this fourth day of January, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-three and the Independence of the United States of America the One Hundred Ninety-sixth

John C. West
Governor of South Carolina

ATTEST: