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May 29, 1981

The Honorable Harry A. Sieben, Jr.
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Sieben:

House File 306, a bill establishing the crime of commercial bribery, is herewith returned to you unsigned. For the reasons stated below, I feel compelled to veto this legislation.

The language of this bill is, I believe, susceptible of widely differing interpretations. By excluding from the conduct which constitutes commercial bribery actions which are "usually accepted business practices", the Legislature is leaving it to the discretion of the various county attorneys to establish their own definitions of "usually accepted business practices." By failing to establish clear statutory standards, I believe that this legislation would subject persons to the threat of arbitrary prosecution.

Let me make it clear that I do not oppose the concept of proscribing conduct by an employee or agent which is intended to harm his employer or principal. We must provide law enforcement officials the tools necessary to enable them to combat white collar crime. However, because of the vagueness and indefiniteness of the language contained in this bill, I would encourage the Legislature to devote further study to this issue so that more specific legislation on this subject can be considered in the future.

Sincerely,

ALBERT H. QUIE
Governor