



# bulletin

FOR MEDIATORS / FACT FINDERS

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## HAROLD NEWMAN'S CLOUDY CRYSTAL BALL

"For solitude is sometimes best society,  
And short retirement urges sweet return."

John Milton - Paradise Lost

"The following letter has been received by PERB panel members who are currently receiving pensions through any of the State retirement systems. We are striving to obtain a clear directive as to how we should proceed and protect those of our panel who are covered by the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law. We want to know, for example, whether arbitration fees resulting from PERB panel assignments would be affected. (This would appear doubtful even though governments are paying half the fees.) By the time you have received this publication, we should have clear answers. In the meantime, I must request that you send your name to me at once if you are a pensioner covered by the State Retirement Law. We will, of course, seek special dispensation for each of the panel members affected. But, please, 'make haste; the better foot before!'

"Dear Pensioner:

The New York State Retirement and Social Security Law provides that should you work in a position in public service after you retire, your retirement allowance must be reduced or suspended unless your employer has obtained approval for your employment. This approval must be obtained by your prospective employer before you begin such employment.

Your earnings are limited if the employer is a 'former employer', and unlimited if the employer is not a 'former employer'. Also these approvals may be granted for periods of employment not exceeding two years at which time another approval is needed or employment must be terminated. Furthermore, recent legislation provides that such approvals must also be obtained for all retirees who render personal services to a public employer whether or not such retiree is an employee or an independent contractor and regardless of the method by which the employee is paid.

If you are presently employed or contemplate employment in public service, you should contact your employer immediately for information on obtaining the necessary approval. Again, to reiterate, we must remind you to ascertain that your employer has obtained the necessary approval before you returned to employment or a reduction or suspension will result in your monthly retirement allowance.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) William Walsh  
Deputy Comptroller"