

1981 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 16 (S.C.A.G.), 1981 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 81-10, 1981 WL 96537

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 81-10

February 5, 1981

*1 The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor
Post Office Box 11450
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Governor Riley:

Mr. Larry B. Fore is a member of the County Council for Dillon County and now stands indicted in the United States District Court of South Carolina, Florence Division, being charged with the offenses specified in [18 U.S.C. § 371](#), [42 U.S.C. § 1973i\(c\)](#) and [18 U.S.C. § 2](#).

You have inquired as to whether the crimes charged involve moral turpitude.

[18 U.S.C. § 371](#) essentially relates to conspiracy against the United States. [42 U.S.C. 1973i\(c\)](#) essentially charges Mr. Fore with conspiracy for the purpose of encouraging illegal voting and with payment or offer to pay a voter for voting in an election. In common parlance, he is charged with ‘vote buying.’

In my opinion, the offense charged in [42 U.S.C. 1973i\(c\)](#) is an offense involving moral turpitude, in accordance with the criteria established by decisions of the Supreme Court of South Carolina in ascertaining whether or not moral turpitude is involved in the application of given facts. In this instance, the charge and the facts as alleged clearly constitute moral turpitude.

Very truly yours,

Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General

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