

1979 WL 43251 (S.C.A.G.)
Opinion No. 79-120

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

October 16, 1979

***1 Violation of U.S.C.A. § 1503 (obstruction of justice) constitutes a crime involving moral turpitude. No opinion expressed in re U.S.C.A § 401 (contempt of court).**

Governor

William L. Lowe was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in the United States District Court, Columbia Division, on October 10, 1979, upon a charge of violation of U.S.C.A. § 401 and U.S.C.A. § 1503. These sections of the United States Code set forth the offenses of contempt of court and obstruction of justice by influencing a grand jury, respectively.

While violation of § 401 (contempt of court) presents a problem with respect to the application of [Article VI, Section 8, of the Constitution](#), the violation of U.S.C.A. § 1503 (obstruction of justice) clearly constitutes a crime involving moral turpitude.

I therefore advise that, in my opinion, William L. Lowe stands indicted for a crime involving moral turpitude.

Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General

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