

Texas Southern University

## Digital Scholarship @ Texas Southern University

---

Mickey Leland Archive Documents

Mickey Leland Archives

---

12-19-1973

### Delay Tactics Charged on Health Plans, OEO

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalscholarship.tsu.edu/mla\\_documents](https://digitalscholarship.tsu.edu/mla_documents)

---

#### Recommended Citation

"Delay Tactics Charged on Health Plans, OEO" (1973). *Mickey Leland Archive Documents*. 12.  
[https://digitalscholarship.tsu.edu/mla\\_documents/12](https://digitalscholarship.tsu.edu/mla_documents/12)

This Clipping is brought to you for free and open access by the Mickey Leland Archives at Digital Scholarship @ Texas Southern University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mickey Leland Archive Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship @ Texas Southern University. For more information, please contact [haiying.li@tsu.edu](mailto:haiying.li@tsu.edu).

The Houston Chronicle 12-19-73 P. 28 Sec. 1

# Delay Tactics Charged on Health Plans, OEO

Chronicle Austin Bureau  
Austin — Rep. Mickey Leland of Houston charged today that a rash of requests for Atty. Gen. John L. Hill to rule on equal employment opportunity, health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and prison reform "reeks of delay tactics, racism and harassment."

Leland accused Sen. A. R. (Babe) Schwartz of Galveston of using a request to Hill as a "subterfuge" to oppose the State Insurance Board's authorization for HMOs in Texas. HMOs are a form of prepaid health care.

The Houston legislator said Schwartz's request to Hill is supportive of the "big, ugly Texas Medical Assn." position. The TMA opposes creation of HMOs that are not controlled by doctors.

Leland, a black, said the House Administration Committee's request for an opinion on constitutionality of the Governor's Equal Employment Opportunity Office, created by the legislature this year, smacks of racism.

He predicted that Hill will have to rule that creation of the office to oversee equal employment plans of all state agencies, including courts and legislative offices, is unconstitutional. The issue is separation of powers of the three branches of government.

However, Leland questioned the motivation of those who sought the ruling. He said that even if Hill declares the state EEO office illegal, he

land) favors continuation of the office by Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

Leland said a recent request by the Board of Corrections has successfully delayed inmates in Texas prisons from testifying before a joint committee on prison reform.

W. J. Estelle Jr., corrections director, has asked Hill whether there is any law under which prison inmates could be brought to Austin to honor the committee's request that they testify.

He also asked whether the Department of Corrections would be liable for any illegal acts the prisoners might perform while out of prison to testify.

Leland said he is joining Rep. Ben Reyes of Houston and others in establishing a

"brain trust" to promote the interests of minority groups in the upcoming constitutional convention.

He said the new constitution should contain language that would support legislative creation of a state office to promote equal employment opportunity in all branches of state government.

Schwartz denied that his request for a ruling on the insurance board's HMO guidelines was designed either to delay or harass.

"I think the insurance board's HMO guidelines raise the question that we've been debating ever since the legislative session. That is whether HMOs are insurance and whether then, the insurance department regulates it or whether it is a nonprofit cor-

poration to be regulated under the Medical Practices Act," Schwartz said.

He said that all have agreed that some kind of insurance policy probably will be designed to underwrite the liability of an HMO against its risk in

providing health care.

"What I question is whether the board can regulate the whole system of HMOs simply because the health maintenance system may constitute an insurance plan," Schwartz said.