Myers named to new Ethics Commission

HARRISBURG (AP) — Former Sen. Robert Myers III, who took an independent course during his brief Senate career, was named yesterday as the first member of the newly created State Ethics Commission.

Myers, a suburban Harrisburg attorney, is the first of seven members who must be named to the panel, which will rule on questions raised under the new ethics law.

In making the appointment, Senate President Pro Tem Martin Murray praised Myers, who often had bucked the Senate leadership.

"I know him to be a man of ability and integrity," Murray said. "I'm confident he will prove a diligent and effective member of this new commission."

- Myers, a Democrat elected in a staunchly Republican district in the aftermath of Watergate, served in the Senate between 1975 and 1976 filling a vacancy created by the death of George Wade.
- Mindful of his constituency, Myers often voted with the Republicans and on one occasion was publicly chastised by his fellow Democrats. They voted down a judicial nominee he wanted for his county court.
- Myers was defeated when he ran for a ' full term in 1976.

Gov. Shapp, who can name three members to the panel, has said he will let Governor-elect Dick Thornburgh make one of the selections. The other three members will be chosen by the Senate minority leader, House speaker

and House minority leader.

Senate bill to limit searches in newsrooms

HARRISBURG (AP) — A bill limiting searches in newsrooms and seizure of reporters' notes was introduced (*) yesterday in the Senate.

The sponsor, Sen. Michael O'Pake, D-Berks, said he hopes the measure will balance the competing interests of a strong free press with that of defendants in criminal cases.

"This past year, Pennsylvania's media played a vital role in improving state government by making the public and elected officials aware of the need for certain and substantial reforms," O'Pake said in a statement.

"Unwarranted searches and seizures in newsrooms and the disclosure of confidential sources may only impede the public's right to know "he added

the public's right to know," he added. Under the measure, a prosecutor could obtain a warrant or subpoena for something in a reporter's possession only if it amounts to contraband or The entire commission must soon be seated if it is to meet the deadlines set up by the new ethics law.

Cabinet members must submit financial disclosure statements 10 days before taking office and some current state officials want rulings on how the new law will affect their dealings with the state after they're out of office.

Myers will serve for four years in the nonsalaried office. Members will be paid \$50 per diem plus expenses.







