

## OPINION NO. 12

The State Ethics Commission has received several inquiries from members of the public on the propriety of a state officer's use of his state telephone number on an on-site billboard advertising real property for sale. Here we have a state officer making a practice of using public equipment for private profit. The officer has appropriated for himself the additional perquisites of continued free telephone service and a free answering service by holding the state telephone number out to the public as his own. This taking for private business use inconveniences the public by tying up the one telephone line to this officer. It also is a misappropriation of the time of other state employees, in the use of this officer's staff to take messages and relay calls when he is elsewhere.

Thus, we hold that a state employee who advertises and uses a state telephone number for private business purposes is using his official position to obtain unwarranted privileges for himself in violation of section 7 of Act 263.

Dated: Honolulu, Hawaii, October 16, 1968.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
Vernon F.L. Char, Chairman  
Mary George, Vice Chairman  
James F. Morgan, Jr., Commissioner  
S. Don Shimazu, Commissioner

Note: Commissioner July Simeona was excused from the meeting at which this opinion was considered.