

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION
ADVISORY OPINION 93 – 31

June 7, 1993

RE: Secretary of Cabinet inquires whether fee can be accepted for giving commencement address at state university graduation ceremony.

This letter is in response to your June 3 verbal request to Mark Guilfoyle for an advisory opinion from the Executive Branch Ethics Commission (the "Commission"). This matter was reviewed at the June 7 meeting of the Commission and the following opinion is issued.

The following facts were provided. As Secretary of the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet, you were asked to give the commencement address at the University of Louisville graduation exercises. You stated that the invitation was issued because of your position as head of the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet. You also noted that your official duties entailed speaking at university ceremonies, including commencement exercises. The University of Louisville informed you that it would pay \$1,000.00 for the address. You have inquired of the Commission whether it will approve of your acceptance of the fee.

KRS 11A.040(5) provides: "No public servant shall knowingly accept compensation, other than that provided by law for public servants, for performance of his official duties without the prior approval of the Commission."

The Commission notes that you gave the address in your official capacity as Secretary of the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet. While the Commission encourages interaction through speeches and addresses between you and state educational institutions, we believe you should not receive additional compensation for such services.