

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by Alan E. Pronovost, Complainant)	
)	Report of Hearing Officer
against)	Docket #FIC77-234
City and Town of Meriden; Court of Common Council of the City and Town of Meriden; Finance and Claims Committee of the Court of Common Council of the City and Town of Meriden; and the Education and Culture Committee of the Court of Common Council of the City and Town of Meriden, Respondents)	February 14, 1978
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The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on January 11, 1978, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared and stipulated to certain facts and presented evidence and argument in the complaint.

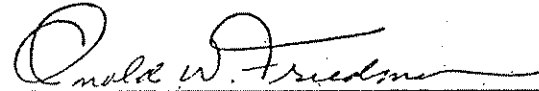
After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found:

1. The respondent committees met in joint session on November 21, 1977 to hear the opinions of the public and to recommend acceptance or rejection of a teachers' contract.
2. At the meeting on November 21, 1977 the respondent committees first heard the public and then voted 3-2 to hold a caucus.
3. After the caucus the respondent committees reconvened in public session and voted to recommend rejection of the contract.
4. It is found that the deliberations of the teachers' contract by the aforesaid committees constituted strategy with respect to collective bargaining.
5. It is concluded, therefore, that the sessions of the respondent committees at which such deliberations occurred were not meetings under §1-18a(b), G.S.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the above captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed.

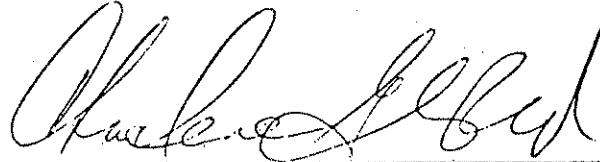
2. Because the respondent committees' deliberations did not constitute a meeting subject to the Freedom of Information Act, the Commission does not reach the question of whether the "caucus" was properly convened or whether that portion of the respondent committees' deliberations which were treated as such, was in fact a caucus.



Commissioner Donald W. Friedman

as Hearing Officer.

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission on
March 8, 1978.



Charlene G. Arnold
Clerk of the Commission