

Interview

Government



Interview Name: Course: Date: Interview This interview was conducted with Mr.

George Riley, the Ombudsman of the country. It took place on 2 November 2012 in his office in Washington. The ombudsman was a middle-aged man who had an aura of authority around him but was very friendly throughout the interview and answered all the questions that were directed to him appropriately. This interview was to be published in the school newspaper and the contact person was Mr. Riley's secretary, Ms. Veronica Winfield. Her telephone number is +2-345-1235 Interviewer: Most people do not know what the ombudsman does, could you please elaborate what you do exactly.

Ombudsman: Well, that is a rather uncommon question, which is asked severally. I think the main reason why people do not know what I do is the foreign title that my position holds. The name ' Ombudsman' originated from a native Swedish term for representative.

I act as an independent representative of the government. My job entails relaying the complaints of the citizens of the country. I achieve this by investigating the complaints that I get to determine if their authenticity. After this verification, I send them to the related department in the government, which solves the problem in question. However, I do not stop here and I go a step further and make sure that the department has alleviated the problem that was raised (Tasmania, 2001). Interviewer: That is a very clear explanation, thank you. Since you address the social issues as you have stated earlier, what is your opinion on the issue of long-term care that has resulted in heated debates all over the country? Ombudsman: The

matter of long-term care has been the cause of a lot of controversy in the past few months. The reason why it has caused so much disagreement is the laws that regulate the long-term care policy.

If these laws were amended, I think the issue will end and parties, both opposers and supporters will benefit equally. Interviewer: What is your suggestion to the department in charge in order to solve this problem?

Ombudsman: I have held several meetings with the heads of the department. In these meetings, we came up with probable solutions that may solve the crisis. However, the department was a little reluctant to implement some of the policies since they were in complete contradiction to the existing laws (Wicke & LTCOC, 2007). Interviewer: What do you think was the cause of this issue in the first place? Ombudsman: In my opinion, this controversy began with the issue of euthanasia as it is referred to medically. The greater number of members of the public believed that the long-term care facilities should offer this option to the patients that were willing to accept it. This resulted in the formation of two fronts whose beliefs differed greatly, those who supported euthanasia and those who disagreed with it completely. This great divide was the beginning of the controversy that shrouded the issue of long-term care and the facilities that the related institutions offer (MCLE, 2009).

Interviewer: Has your office conducted investigations pertaining to this matter? If they have what was the result in terms of the opinions of the citizens of the country? Ombudsman: My office has collaborated up with several prominent researchers and conducted a study. The study was aimed at investigating the people's perception on the matter and the present

facilities that the long-term care institutions offer. The research showed that about 51% of the population was against euthanasia while 47 % supported it. The remaining 2% did not hold an opinion concerning the matter.

From the research, it is clear that most of the citizens were against the matter (Pennsylvania & Pennsylvania. 2005). Interviewer: What is your opinion concerning the matter? Ombudsman: I believe that it is the personal decision of the person. If he has a good reason behind his decision, I think he or she should be given all the available options including euthanasia.

Interviewer: Thank you so much for your time and expertise in answering the questions. Ombudsman: You are welcome, and it was my pleasure to take part in this interview. References Minnesota Continuing Legal Education (MCLE). (2009).

Medical assistance and long term care 2009. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Continuing Legal Education. Pennsylvania & Pennsylvania. (2005).

Pennsylvania long- term care ombudsman program annual report. Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Dept. of Aging.

Tasmania. Office of the Ombudsman. (2001). Ombudsman. Tasmania: Tasmania. Office of the Ombudsman. Wicke, B. S.

, & Long Term Care Ombudsman Council (LTCOC). (2007). Ombudsman. Mary Esther, FL: Blacknblue Press.