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Speaking on the “Quiet Revolution” podcast earlier this week, legal scholar and former legal adviser to the state comptroller Prof. Yoram Rabin asserted, however, that the office nevertheless has an effective form of soft power.

He argued that state comptroller reports on the manifold issues the office audits provide voters with uniquely impartial, politically neutral accounts of government functioning, which can help inform their electoral choice.

So what's the problem?

During his interview on the “Quiet Revolution” podcast, Rabin said that the power of the state comptroller was not necessarily in what issues they choose to review, but in what they decide not to review.

“The great power of the state comptroller is to decide the work agenda [of the office], and what are the emphases, and what he wants to review,” said Rabin.

He noted that previous state comptrollers, such as Micha Lindenstrauss and Yosef Shapira, investigated expenses claimed by the Prime Minister’s Office, which resulted in significant backlash against Netanyahu when details of improper expenses were revealed.

“His power is to decide what is being audited. No one else can decide the work agenda other than him,” said Rabin.

“You can’t deal with this through a conflict of interest agreement, because no one else is authorized to determine the agenda.”