

The question of withholding information from the Congress by the Bureau of the Budget which, as you probably know, has a policy of requiring clearance before any agency may submit reports to committees on pending legislation, has been raised before this committee on several occasions. In addition, the staff has found in many instances when contacts were made with agencies interested in legislation pending before the committee that, although the proposed reports had been submitted to the Bureau of the Budget weeks and sometimes months in advance, they had not been cleared. Under this procedure, the committee has been severely handicapped in obtaining information it considered to be necessary before acting on bills pending before it. Further details regarding different Bureau regulations are found on pages 26 and 27 of the hearings on the Passport Reorganization Act of 1959, as contained in a staff memorandum included in the committee hearings.

Also you will note on page 15 of the hearings on a bill relating to payments in lieu of taxes (S. 910), Senator Humphrey, acting for the chairman of the committee in connection with the hearings on this bill, made some critical comments relative to the lack of cooperation by the Bureau of the Budget in reaching decisions regarding pending legislation.

Also attached are several copies of Senate Document 108 on a closely related subject dealing with refusals to the General Accounting Office of access to records of the executive departments and agencies, which I believe will be of interest to your subcommittee.

Trusting this information will be of assistance to you, and with kind regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

JOHN L. McCLELLAN, *Chairman.*

[Following is correspondence enclosed to illustrate the practices described:]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
Washington, June 15, 1960.

HON. JOHN L. McCLELLAN,
Chairman, Committee on Government Operations,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request, [October 22, 1959] for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to S. 2678, 86th Congress, a bill to provide for the reorganization of the safety functions of the Federal Government, and for other purposes. The Secretary of Defense has delegated to this Department the responsibility for expressing the views of the Department of Defense.

The proposed legislation would create a Federal Safety Division, under a Director of Federal Safety in the Department of Labor, with authority to direct and coordinate the safety educational programs and accident prevention procedures, establish minimum standards, inspect the premises and records, recommend budget requirements, and collect and analyze the accident data of all the Federal departments and agencies in furtherance of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.