

The functions assigned to the Trade Policy Committee by the Executive order of November 25, 1957, are to: First, make recommendations to the President on basic policy issues arising in the administration of the trade agreements program, which, as approved by the President, shall guide the Trade Agreements Committee; second, advise the President with respect to recommendations made by the Trade Agreements Committee; and third, make recommendations to the President as to what action he should take on escape-clause reports submitted by the Tariff Commission.

As noted above, the decisions of the Trade Agreements Committee, under the chairmanship of the Department of State, are reviewed by the Trade Policy Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of Commerce. We therefore now have the situation where two different agencies control separate committees which formulate the policies. Through the Trade Policy Committee policies regarding the foreign trade of the United States are no longer a matter of foreign policy under the responsibility of the Department of State but have become a function of the Department of Commerce.

The new role by the Department of Commerce was readily admitted to. During the 1958 hearings on the Trade Agreements Act extension, former Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks testified:

"The United States today is by far the most important trading nation in the world. With world trade's increasing importance to us, the Department of Commerce is playing an increasingly significant role in the formulation of our foreign-trade policies.

"Additionally, the President has strengthened Commerce's role in trade-agreement matters and in foreign economic questions, generally, by creating a Cabinet-level Trade Policy Committee, chaired by the Secretary of Commerce. This Committee now directly advises the President in the administration of the trade-agreements program.

"The recommendations made to the President by this body include action in escape-clause cases. The Committee guides the direction of GATT negotiations and is consulted on the proposed composition and membership of our delegation to GATT meetings. The Committee reviews and advises the President respecting all recommendations of the interdepartmental Trade Agreements Committee, and is consulted on other matters which influence this country's position in world trade."

That is the testimony of former Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks.

Under the new Executive order, if this nomination is confirmed, the man who has defended the invalid contract and who has refused to give information with respect to it will be the head of the new Trade Policy Committee. I know, as every other Member of the Senate and each Member of the House of Representatives knows, that Members of this body and Members of the House of Representatives have received countless calls from their constituents about the disastrous effects upon domestic commerce of the actions which are taken under the trade agreements policy.

This morning, Mr. President, as a member of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, I was present during a discussion of a bill introduced by a distinguished Senator from Colorado [Mr. Allott] to provide import quotas on fluorspar. This is a problem which is