

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1963

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C.

The special subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:15 a.m., in room 1334, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Oren Harris (chairman of the special subcommittee) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The subcommittee will come to order.

Over a period of years this committee has been concerned with the problems that come under its jurisdiction. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 specifically directed the committees of the Congress to maintain an oversight. If anyone wonders how the committee in 1957 and 1958 designated that investigation as coming under the Oversight Committee, that is where it came from. The Reorganization Act, in section 136, specifically directed the committees of the Congress to maintain an oversight or a watchfulness of the administration of the laws enacted by the Congress under the jurisdiction of the particular committee.

We have tried during these years to carry out this responsibility as a committee. The jurisdiction of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce is not only of great importance, but it is extensive and very wide. In carrying out the responsibilities of the committee we try to maintain a watchfulness or oversight of all of the operations; that is, the administration of the laws, with which this committee is concerned.

But since 1957 and 1958 the committee has given special emphasis to problems affecting the major regulatory agencies of the Government, since most of them come under the jurisdiction of this committee.

It was recognized by our beloved late Speaker Sam Rayburn, who was chairman of this committee at the time several of these regulatory agencies were born. And the Speaker felt that the Congress, in laying down the rules and setting up these great agencies of the Government, had tremendous power over the business, the economy, the welfare of the consumers, and the future needs of the people of the country. He has on many occasions discussed with me the real intent of these agencies being set up as an arm of the Congress, and doing a job or being called upon to do a job which the Congress could not, for many reasons well known to everyone, do itself.