

So consequently we have been giving a lot of attention in the last several years to these problems. We have issued reports. In my judgment those reports contain valuable information. And all with an objective of better administration and improved procedures, inuring to the interest of the public—and that means the consumers of America.

We have had legislation that has been derived out of the work of the committee and the hearings and investigations conducted during the last 6 years. In the last Congress, specifically, every agency, that is, every major regulatory agency, with the exception of two, has undergone reorganization by the Congress, some through legislation designed by this committee establishing the pattern which had been approved by the Congress, and others with the same pattern under a reorganization plan submitted to Congress by the President of the United States. The Federal Power Commission has not been so reorganized, primarily because there has not been a request for it. The request was made by the Commission in the past under the chairmanship of Mr. Kuykendall, which was considered in hearings by the other body as well as the general consideration given by this committee. The same request was made by the present makeup of the Commission in the last Congress under the chairmanship of Mr. Swidler, the present chairman. But the committee and the Congress did not feel and have not felt the wide latitude they have requested to be in keeping with the intention of the Congress when these agencies were established. Neither would it be in keeping with the spirit of these reports, because we believe there should be a Commission to run these agencies and not a one-man affair. And neither should the staff do it.

I advised the Commission in the last Congress that if they wanted a reorganization plan such as had been set up for almost all the other major regulatory agencies, that I as chairman of the committee would introduce such a bill to work it out.

I was advised that they did not think it would be necessary, as they were getting along very well.

In addition thereto, the chairman of the various regulatory agencies under the jurisdiction of the committee, and others in the Government, after consultation with our own committee, and together, as we understand, suggested to the President, President Eisenhower, some few years ago, the establishment of an Administrative Conference—I believe that is the name of it—the Administrative Conference of the United States. That was at the time when we had under consideration legislation to do something about the overall problem of ex parte contacts and those things involved with it.

That Conference was set up. Judge Prettyman was made chairman of it. It did a very good job in this particular field. President Kennedy in 1961, in continuing the work of the Congress with Judge Prettyman as the chairman reestablished the Administrative Conference and approved its work. That Conference has concluded its preliminary work, and has made a recommendation to the President, as I understand it.

We are now at the crossroads as to whether or not that type of institution, in the best interest of the administration of laws by these various agencies of the Government, will be made permanent. During the