

I concur with the many suggestions which have been made with regard to increased compensation, drastically increased retirement benefits and longer tenure of office.

I would suggest that 10 years is an appropriate term.

The absence of such protection and insulation is presently an impediment, in my opinion, to the independence of these agencies which the Congress contemplated when it delegated its responsibilities to them.

Ten, each Commissioner needs a larger personal staff of specialists, or assistants, to assist him in analyzing the huge volume of cases which flow through his office each week.

No Commissioner, working with a single assistant and hampered to some extent by the fact that the staff may not always be free and willing to advance its own independent judgment and assistance, can hope to deal accurately and fairly with a weekly load of some 65 to 90 cases brought before the Commission in a single weekly working meeting lasting approximately 6 to 8 hours.

Eleven, one of the most important achievements of the present Commission is the establishment of an Office of Economics within the staff. This was accomplished only last year and is a sad commentary on the administrative standards existing in the agency from its inception until that time.

When one considers that this agency regulates the largest industry in the United States, in terms of investment: the electric power industry, and the fifth or sixth largest; the natural gas industry, it speaks much for what has transpired to point out the tardiness of this agency in turning to the tools of economic analysis in dealing with problems which very often involve more important economic than legal problems.

This Office should be strengthened drastically.

I also recommend that the Commission at all times in the future have not less than two trained economists within its membership at the Commission level.

Twelve, the Commission has shown signs of relapsing toward the old system of issuing anonymous opinions, couched in obscure and confusing terminology, baffling to the members of the bar and even to the attorneys in the case and, of course, even much more so to the general public.

Necessary steps should be taken to insure that every opinion issued by the Commission shall be signed by an individual Commissioner so that the views set forth in that opinion, as well as the coherence and reasoning of the opinion, are directly attributable to him.

Now, there, gentlemen, I have set forth a number of reasons that impelled me to decide that the chances of accomplishment in this agency at this time are not sufficient to balance the sacrifices and dislocations imposed on my family, and to leave the Commission.

And I have attempted, on very short notice, to offer some suggestions concerning most of them.

Mr. BENNETT. Will you yield for one question?

Mr. MOSS. Yes, but I want to thank you for the suggestions.

I am not going to try to comment on them at this point. They are rather extensive, and I would have to study them.

I will be very happy to yield.