

Mr. SWIDLER. One illustration of the determination of the Commission to make its work effective is in the field of headwater benefit determinations, where in the whole history of the Commission, Mr. Chairman, until 1962, only a half million dollars had been collected as payment to the United States for all the benefits conferred by Federal upstream projects on the projects of downstream licensees; approximately the cost of administration of that function. This year alone, we will collect more than three times that much; next year, \$4 million, and in the future I hope even larger sums.

There are many more plans and many more activities upon which we are working to increase our effectiveness and our responsiveness to the needs of consumers in the gas and power fields.

To give you some conception of the real composition of the work that we do—not these few cases that have been the subject of so much testimony, and which I shall discuss separately, but to give you a rounded view of the kind of work that we are doing, I have pulled together in exhibit B, which I hope you will read, short descriptions of each of the scores of decisions that this Commission has handed out in the last 18 months, and I don't think anyone who reads that can fail to see the extent to which we have exerted ourselves to discharge our responsibilities, to carry out the congressional programs, to help the electric power and natural gas consumers in this country. These are only a small part of the grist that goes through our mill. They are the formal opinions.

I think that some of the references in the last part of my written statement will illustrate the extent to which informed sources that have studied the work of the Commission have concluded that as a whole, we have been impartial, aggressive in the consumer interest, but fair.

And this is my conception of the role that we should play as a quasi-judicial agency.

Now, I think this record of accomplishments would speak for itself if it were not for Mr. Morgan's charges. It is a hard fact, Mr. Chairman, that the steady, day-to-day grind of work, the opinions on which we labor so hard, get small attention and the easy challenge, the figure launched off the cuff, will get a headline. The adjective pulled out of a hat will be repeated over and over again, especially if it is used in so ambiguous a way that people have trouble figuring out just what is intended.

Mr. Morgan says that his fellow commissioners are able, honest, conscientious men and that he does not want to deal in personalities, and I can assure the members of this committee that I do not want to deal in personalities, either, and that I have not done so. But this hearing has been held because the members of this committee think that Mr. Morgan's charges involve personalities. That is what this is all about. I could not be responsive, sitting here, and saying, "Well, he said that no personalities are involved, so I do not need to talk about them."

You would say I was evading the charges that were intended, and only in the interest of not evading and to the limited extent that is necessary to avoid evasion, I want to deal with these charges.

Now, I would like to address myself, if I may, to Mr. Morgan's letter to the President. I take it the members of the committee have copies.