

Mr. YOUNGER. This morning, you stated that every month you send a report to the President.

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. YOUNGER. Do you send a report to this committee?

Mr. SWIDLER. No, sir.

Mr. YOUNGER. Do you send a report to the Senate Commerce Committee?

Mr. SWIDLER. No, sir.

Mr. YOUNGER. Do you consider that your Commission is an arm of the Congress?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. YOUNGER. Then why do you send a report to the President and not send one to the respective committees of the Congress which have legislative jurisdiction over you?

Mr. SWIDLER. The President asked me to, sir.

Mr. YOUNGER. Well, do you not think it would be rather incumbent upon you that if you furnished any information to the President, you might also furnish the same information to the bodies that have legislative jurisdiction over you, especially if you are an arm of the Congress?

Mr. SWIDLER. I would assume, sir, that this agency had its own methods of keeping in touch with what we are doing, and, of course, through your staff, we have frequent inquiries. It would not occur to me simply to send you copies of other correspondence, but I would, of course, be delighted to fit into whatever system this committee establishes.

If this committee would like reports, why, of course I would be glad to file them. I assume you would want to make this general and that all agencies would file such reports. But whether it is just the Federal Power Commission or all agencies, I will, of course, be delighted to make any reports that this committee wants.

I should make clear that the President has not asked for exhaustive reports. These are very brief, and deliberately so, so that it hits just the high spots of accomplishments and problems.

Mr. YOUNGER. I imagine one of the things which he is concerned with is the same problem that we are all concerned with, the progress being made on the cases and the backlog—how it is being handled. It would seem to me that if you do get out a report of that kind, and file a report of that kind with the Executive, it also should be filed with this committee, for our information.

Mr. SWIDLER. This report does not purport to be a systematic accounting as to the status of our backlogs in the various areas of our work, but only three or four items of outstanding importance which occurred during the month, either by way of achievement, by way of planning, or by way of problem or setback.

Mr. YOUNGER. There is another problem that I would like to get your advice on. Most of these public utilities do have power of eminent domain, do they not?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.