

Mr. YOUNGER. In other words, they can come in and condemn for a right-of-way across my land, and upon just compensation, they can secure through the courts that right-of-way?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. YOUNGER. And I have no right to dictate to them and tell them what they do with that right-of-way or how they handle the power or gas that they transfer over that right-of-way?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. YOUNGER. Do you think that same right ought to exist on public property?

Mr. SWIDLER. The Commission is now attempting to formulate a position with respect to the proposed regulation of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, to which I am sure you refer—

Mr. YOUNGER. That is right.

Mr. SWIDLER (continuing). Which would condition the use of rights-of-way through the national parks and the national forest, national monuments, upon agreement to certain stipulations as to the right of the Federal Government to make use of the transmission lines which are constructed. I think we will have a position which we will express to the Interior Department with respect to their proposed regulation.

I do not know, Mr. Younger, speaking now personally—

Mr. YOUNGER. I would not ask you to make a statement on it prior to your decision.

Mr. SWIDLER. Very good.

Mr. YOUNGER. But it is a problem with which we are going to be faced, especially out in the West, it seems to me, if any such policy on the part of the Government were confirmed, you might as well wipe out private power, and even Mr. Morgan, in his statement yesterday, does not want to completely eliminate private power.

He wants to maintain the status of it as it is now, although I think he probably feels more kindly toward public power than he does toward private power.

But certainly out West, where you can hardly move without getting a right-of-way over public lands, if the public lands are going to deny the utility the right of going into court or getting a right-of-way without again injecting certain rights that it has in getting stipulations, that, I think, seems to be going a little far.

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. YOUNGER. That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rogers?

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I was interested in going a little bit into the charges his testimony made—at least I have assumed they were charges fromatives, either of staff or of the Chairman working through the staff.

Perhaps you could enlighten us just a little bit on that.

How many employees does the Commission have?

Mr. SWIDLER. There are about 1,050 employees now, sir.