

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. How many are employed by the Chairman?

Mr. SWIDLER. Well, I think that—

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. I realize you may not know the exact number.

Mr. SWIDLER. Our personnel system is such that most of the employees are hired by our personnel director and top staff personnel without most of the Commissioners knowing about it, or my knowing, either. There are a group of appointments at the higher levels which I must make personally and on which the approval of the other Commissioners are required.

All appointments over grade 15 and all hearing examiners are appointed only with the approval of the whole Commission.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. So each Commissioner has a say-so in the employment of those people?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir. I make the nominations. Ordinarily, on an important appointment, we arrange for a meeting so that all members of the Commission can meet the candidate and then vote on whether to approve his appointment. But the Chairman as the chief administrative officer has the responsibility for trying to find these people and bringing them to the attention of the other members of the Commission.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Would you say it is done pretty much in consultation with the other members whom you interview together or—

Mr. SWIDLER. I do the original screening. On some of these positions, I have literally interviewed twoscore or more people. This is a very time-consuming job. It is only after the sifting process has been completed, normally, that I would bring him to the attention of the other Commissioners.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Now, in the rehiring or the firing of such an employee, could any Commissioner initiate a request to the rest of you or to you that this particular employee be dismissed?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir; he could.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Has this ever happened?

Mr. SWIDLER. This has never happened.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Have you, as Chairman, dismissed anyone since you have been in your position, that you recall offhand? I realize it might slip your mind.

Mr. SWIDLER. Not in the sense of—a lot of these things are semi-negotiated.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. What I was trying to get at, for not carrying out your policy, have you fired anyone?

Mr. SWIDLER. I think maybe some people have left sooner than they otherwise would. I have not been through a termination processing; no, sir.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Was it because of your policy or the Commission's policy that you let him go?

Mr. SWIDLER. It was after discussion with the Commission.