

The CHAIRMAN. Now, I know there has been a lot of discussion and many questions asked about the interpretation of the letter that provoked publicity on this matter, and it is not my purpose to rehash that again, but I hold in hand an article which I believe was the first article on it.

And it is dated on Saturday, January 26.

The headline is "FPC Member Raps Agencies For Conformity."

Now, that was the interpretation that was placed by the publicity on this letter that was called to your attention?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You felt that pretty deeply, didn't you?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The very first paragraph:

A fellow Power Commissioner announced yesterday that he would not accept reappointment because of "the urge for conformity, timidity, and personal integrity" in the regulatory agencies.

Do you feel that that was directed to you, among other Commissioners?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir; I so understood it.

The CHAIRMAN. And it is the interpretation that the press placed on it then that strengthened your feeling that this was an attack on the Commissioners themselves?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, Mr. Swidler, you started a year and a half ago, did you not, approximately?

Mr. SWIDLER. I became Chairman, sir, on September 1, 1961. I had served on the Commission as a member for 2 months before that date.

The CHAIRMAN. One of the things that this committee has tried to bring about in the last several years is a policy to do something about the long, unnecessary delays before the various regulatory agencies.

Did you start with the intention of trying to do something about such unnecessary delays and long, drawnout decisions before the Commission?

Mr. SWIDLER. Oh, yes, sir. This was the great challenge of the job, to see whether I couldn't help improve the administration of the Federal Power Commission.

The CHAIRMAN. And you feel that you have done that?

Mr. SWIDLER. I feel we have made a lot of progress, yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I must say so far as the administration of the program is concerned I am strongly of the opinion that you have.

Do you know, in dollars and cents, how many pipeline applications have been approved since you went down there in the last year and a half or a little more?

Mr. SWIDLER. I think it was over \$600 million last year.

May I put that figure in the record, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. Well, until we get it more nearly correct, you estimate it about \$600 million last year?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. 1962?

Mr. SWIDLER. Yes, sir.