

We regret that we were unable to submit answers to the subcommittee's questionnaire by the requested deadline. The Commission has considered the question of the applicability of the Administrative Procedure Act to its functions on several occasions in the past, and reached conclusions on a number of points but not on all of them. It was therefore necessary to undertake additional research, which consumed a few days more time than we anticipated.

As requested, two copies of the Tariff Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the description of Commission central and field organization, and a statement of the general course and method by which its functions are channeled and determined, are enclosed with this letter.

Sincerely yours,

BEN DORFMAN, *Chairman.*

REPLY FROM VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D.C., March 15, 1965.

Hon. JOHN E. MOSS,
*Chairman, Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee,
Committee on Government Operations,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for an answer to specific inquiries dealing with the availability of information from Federal departments and agencies.

The Veterans' Administration supports the principle of furnishing to the public as complete information concerning our operations as is feasible. We have taken great pains to see that information of interest to the public is made available. Our policy in this regard is set out in VA Manual MP-1 providing:

Both the veteran and the public are entitled to full information about VA. The Administrator's policy is that VA will release all available information about its activities, freely and frankly, to all information media. This policy must be carried out.

Pursuant to this policy, we actively engage in the distribution of information relative to benefits available and the procedures for prosecution of claims for such, through fact sheets, newspapers, periodicals, radio, and television announcements.

In addition to the normal avenues of dissemination of information to the public, the Veterans' Administration maintains contact offices in regional offices and makes contact representatives available to veterans when hospitalized.

These representatives not only furnish information as to how to proceed in individual claims but actually assist in the preparation and prosecution of the claim. We also, pursuant to section 3402(a)(2), title 38, United States Code, provide space and office facilities for representatives of national service organizations. These representatives, who assist veterans in the prosecution of claims, have available all Veterans' Administration publications and issues for their guidance, including those dealing with internal management and proceedings.

I wish to assure you that the Veterans' Administration, as a service agency, is ever mindful of its duty to ascertain that veterans and beneficiaries are fully informed as to the courses and procedures required to pursue their rights before the agency.

Answers to your specific inquiries are contained in the attachment hereto. If further information or clarification is needed, you are invited to contact Mr. A. T. Bronaugh, Acting Assistant General Counsel, code 148, extension 3050.

Sincerely,

W. J. DRIVER, *Administrator.*

1. Generally, to what functions of your agency does 5 U.S.C. 1002 apply? Are there any divisions, bureaus, branches or other constituent units of your agency to which the section does not apply?

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 1002 are generally held to apply to all functions of the Veterans' Administration.

2. In what official or unofficial publication, and at what intervals, does your agency publish:

(a) Descriptions of its central and field organization (see sec. 3(a)(1) of the APA);