

burden involved in filling out any questionnaire, and here also we ask ourselves whether the purpose to be served warrants the imposing on the respondent of this burden, which may be moderate or very great, as the circumstances may vary.

Mr. ROMNEY. When you receive a questionnaire or form for clearance, what consultation, if any, do you have with the agency which is proposing the form or questionnaire on all points, and in particular the issue you have just talked about, namely, privacy and appropriateness?

Mr. CROWDER. Let me outline our general procedure and how this fits into it. These proposals come to us formally through the Government mail in a prescribed form with a statement outlining the nature of the proposal. They are registered in our so-called clearance office. They are assigned to that member of the staff whose assignment covers the area in question, and this staff member studies the dockets at an appropriate time, in terms of his own work program; he consults the sponsors, and asks questions which have occurred to him from his review of the dockets.

There are some cases that are so simple that no questions occur, and these go through rather quickly. There are many cases where questions do occur. Sometimes they are answered over the telephone; sometimes there are meetings with the sponsoring agency. Sometimes there are interagency meetings, if more than one agency is involved, and in a number of cases there are meetings with outside advisory groups. This is particularly true of inquiries going to business. But there is a great deal of variation and flexibility in the review process.

I can say simply that our reviewers identify the issues that seem important, and they pursue them with the sponsoring agency and with any other interests or agencies that are involved.

Mr. HORTON. Mr. Crowder, do I understand that your special function in your office is sort of a clearinghouse for all these questionnaires by all the agencies of Government?

Mr. CROWDER. That is right.

Mr. HORTON. I mean if I went down to your office, I would be able to find all the questionnaires that all the agencies and offices of Government are asking and sending out?

Mr. CROWDER. You would find a file of all active repetitive forms, and a record of the surveys, the single time surveys, that have been made.

Mr. HORTON. Do you have a lot of these in your office?

Are there great numbers of them or are there very few?

Mr. CROWDER. The number of active forms, which is our unit of counting, at the moment is in the neighborhood of 4,600.

Mr. HORTON. Do you mean to tell me that there are 4,600 different questionnaires that go out from different agencies of Government?

Mr. CROWDER. You would not call all of them questionnaires, I do not believe. They are what we call "report forms." They are instruments which ask questions, and some of them are no bigger than a postcard and some of them are 40 pages long. But there are that many.

Mr. HORTON. Would this, like this Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census questionnaire, have gone through your office, too?

Mr. CROWDER. Yes.