

PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW COMMISSION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1967

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10 a.m., in room 3110 New Senate Office Building, Senator Frank Church (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senators Frank Church of Idaho, and Len B. Jordan, of Idaho.

Also present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director; Stewart French, chief counsel; Porter Ward, professional staff member; Mike Griswold, professional staff member; and Darryl H. Hart, assistant minority counsel.

Senator CHURCH. The hearing will come to order.

The bills before us this morning are H.R. 12121, passed by the House of Representatives on August 21, 1967, and S. 2255, an identical bill. It is a proposal to extend the life of the Public Land Law Review Commission and increase its authorization.

The Public Land Law Review Commission was established by Public Law 606 of the 88th Congress.

The legislation before us would amend that law by making the final report due June 30, 1970, in lieu of December 31, 1968, and change the date of expiration of the Commission to correspond to a date 6 months following submission of the report. It would also liberalize the hearing provisions of the act.

We must keep in mind that one-third of all the land area of the United States is publicly owned—that is, better than three-quarters of a billion acres of land—and that there are presently 5000-plus laws having to do with our public lands. Also, there have been three previous studies of the public land laws, and not too much has resulted directly from these studies.

This presents some idea of the magnitude of the work of the Commission. The legislation before us was submitted by the Commission and was introduced in the Senate by Senator Jackson as S. 2255, and in the House of Representatives by Congressman Aspinall, who is also Chairman of the Commission. The two bills are identical.

I will direct at this time that a copy of the bill H.R. 12121 be included in the hearing record along with House Report 561 which accompanies the bill.

I also think it would be well to include a copy of Public Law 606 of the 88th Congress, the act which would be amended by this legislation.