

that subsequently became the act of September 19, 1964 (78 Stat. 982) establishing the Commission, this committee took note of some of the deficiencies and inadequacies of the public land laws that necessitate a complete review of all such laws (H. Rept. 1008, 88th Cong.). The report also stated the committee's view that "due to the many and varied factors, considerations, and interests involved, only a bipartisan commission supplemented by an advisory council made up of the many interested users of the public lands would be in a position to coordinate and supervise effectively such a broad study."

The Commission held its organization meeting in mid-July 1965 at which time a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a director were chosen. The Director assumed his full time work with the Commission on August 2, 1965, more than 10 months after the bill establishing the Commission had become law.

The Commission is composed of six Members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate and six Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, divided equally between the majority and minority parties, plus six members appointed by the President from outside the Federal Government, and a 19th member chosen as Chairman by the 18 appointed members.

There is an advisory council made up of representatives of interested Federal departments and agencies, eight at the present time, and 25 individuals chosen by the Commission to be representatives of the major citizen groups interested in problems related to the retention, management, and disposition of the public lands. In addition, the Governor of each of the 50 States has named a representative to work closely with the Commission and its staff and with the Advisory Council.

The executive departments and agencies currently represented on the Advisory Council are the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Defense, Justice, and Housing and Urban Development, the Atomic Energy Commission, Federal Power Commission, and the General Services Administration.

A briefing session on the work of the Commission was held by this committee in April 1967 and a hearing on H.R. 12121 was held on August 16. These hearings impressed the committee with the complete coverage embraced by the study program that has been developed by the Commission staff. The 34 subjects identified for study or analysis are so arranged and structured as to assure that all facts required for the Commission's deliberations will be before the Commission when it arrives at its conclusions and makes its recommendations.

The committee was also pleased with the program undertaken by the Commission to permit all persons to be heard who have views as to the retention, management, or disposition of the public lands. In meetings across the Nation, from the eastern seaboard to the west coast and from the gulf coast to above the Arctic Circle, hundreds of witnesses have already been heard.

The committee is satisfied that the Commission has been fulfilling the legislative intent behind its establishment and, since its organization, has been moving diligently and effectively to accomplish the purposes of the act establishing it.

Under the act of September 19, 1964, the Commission is required to submit its final report to the President and the Congress not later than December 31, 1968. The act also provides for dissolution of the