PROGRAM OF WORK

By May of 1966, we had hammered out an agreed-upon basic approach to our work. Following considerable research and discussion within the staff, a group met at Camp Hoover in the Shenandoah National Park for a final review of a document embodying the objective, functions, and operations of the Commission. We regretted that no members of this committee could be present at that meeting, but we were pleased at that time to have representing the committee your chief clerk, Jerry Verkler. The program paper then agreed upon was circulated to the members of the Commission and its official family, after which it was made final and became the operating guide for all Commission activities.

A copy of the program paper has been previously made available to the committee, and additional copies are available today, should you desire to examine it. While we say that this document provides an outline for all of the work of the Commission, we recognize that it may require revision as we proceed.

The fundamentals of our program require, first, staff identification, after proper research and consultation with the official family of the Commission, of the subjects requiring consideration by the Commission in order to permit it to make recommendations as required by Public Law 88–606 in support of the congressional policy—and I quote from the law—"that the public lands of the United States shall be (a) retained and managed or (b) disposed of, all in a manner to provide the maximum benefit for the general public." Through this procedure we had an initial listing of 25 subjects for study and analysis; after subsequent additions, we now have a listing of 34 subjects as follows:

1. History of public land laws.
2. Revenue sharing and payments in lieu of taxes.
3. Digest of public land laws.
4. Forage.
5. Administrative procedures.
6. Land exchanges and acquisitions.
7. Withdrawals and reservations.
8. Alaska.
9. Future demand for commodities of the public lands.
10. Timber.
11. Nonfuel minerals.
12. Energy fuels.
13. Water.
14. Regional and local land use planning.
15. Outdoor recreation.
16. Land grants to States.
17. Criteria to judge the facts.
18. Use and occupancy of public lands.
19. Fish and wildlife.
20. Intensive agriculture.
21. Outer Continental Shelf.
22. Organization, administration, and budgetary policy.
23. Economic impacts.
24. Noneconomic impacts.
25. User fees and charges.