

COMMISSION MEETINGS

In conjunction with some of the meetings to hear the public, we also had meetings of the Commission with its Advisory Council and the Governors' representatives. In addition, the Commission met with the Advisory Council and the Governors' representatives here in Washington in March 1966 and again in Denver, Colo., in September 1966. Although the law requires that the Advisory Council meet every 6 months, we have been relying on this Advisory Council very heavily, Mr. Chairman, and our Advisory Council has, in the slightly more than 2 years since we organized met six times.

The Commission has also had two meetings of its own. We met at Front Royal, Va., in January 1967 and then here in Washington in April of this year.

In connection with the Denver meeting, the Commission and its official family had an extensive tour of public land areas throughout Colorado with the opportunity of also looking at lands in Utah and Wyoming. At stops en route, the group had the opportunity of meeting informally with users and others interested in the public lands.

So, as you see, every region has been visited and, in conjunction with the meetings, we also had the opportunity of examining public land areas on the ground. We contemplate having hearings in the future, Mr. Chairman, to focus on specific subjects. Hearings designed to obtain recommendations for future policy will also be held. The Commission has authorized the Director to develop plans for such hearings; but until we know the action on the legislation before you today, these plans cannot be prepared fully.

STUDY PROGRAM

Of the 34 subjects that I indicated a moment ago as having been identified for study and analyses, six of those planned to be accomplished under contract are now underway, as follows:

- History of Public Land Laws.

- Revenue sharing and payments in lieu of taxes.

- Digest of public land laws.

- Alaska.

- Future demands for commodities producible from the public lands.

- Withdrawals and reservations.

Proposals have been received from potential contractors for the forage study, and we have invited potential contractors to submit proposals for the accomplishment of the fish and wildlife study. In addition, the study of land grants to States is being accomplished by our own staff on the basis of "filling-in" while other work is being given priority.

In addition to the nine studies either underway or for which bids have been received, we have the following 11 major subjects for which it is planned to seek contractors to accomplish the entire work:

- Administrative procedures.

- Land exchanges and acquisitions.

- Timber.

- Nonfuel minerals.

- Energy fuels.