

BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARY, WEBSTER P. MAXSON

Career public servant now in his 23rd year of Federal service. Born September 24, 1916, the second of four sons of Harold S. and Bertha (Kapple) Maxson, his voting residence is in Massachusetts. Mr. Maxson is a graduate of Amherst College (1939) and the College of Law, University of Cincinnati (1949), and studied accounting at George Washington University (1951). He served for five years in Army Air Forces.

Mr. Maxson's early government experience was as a trial attorney handling litigation in the Federal courts throughout the country on behalf of the Government, and as bureau counsel in a great many administrative proceedings before the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Communications Commission. As a member of the staff of the Office of Legal Counsel in the Department of Justice, he did considerable work in connection with proposed legislation involving a variety of subjects.

In 1959, Mr. Maxson was appointed Director of the Office of Administrative Procedure in the Justice Department. He also has served as Staff Director of the President's Panel on Ethics in Government, in 1961, and was Executive Secretary of the temporary Administrative Conference of the United States which operated in 1961 and 1962.

His present position is Director, Office of Administrative Procedure, Department of Justice. He is acting as Executive Secretary of the permanent Administrative Conference of the United States established pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 571-576.

As I said a moment ago, we are delighted that you are serving as chairman and that this Administrative Conference will now proceed to perform the duties that we think it will. We hope that it works out well. It might even put the ombudsman out of business—making it an unnecessary institution.

Mr. JERRE WILLIAMS. It would be a wonderful thing if it could, and we will try.

Senator LONG. But as you indicated in your statement, if an ombudsman is to be established, it would require the close cooperation with you and the Office of the Administrative Conference. I am sure that your working together would be very gratifying.

Mr. JERRE WILLIAMS. Yes.

Senator LONG. Mr. Fensterwald, do you have any questions?

Mr. FENSTERWALD. No.

Senator LONG. Mr. Kass?

Mr. KASS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator LONG. Benny Kass has been doing a lot of work on this subject.

Mr. KASS. Professor Williams, there has been a lot of concern about the question of size, as to whether one ombudsman can handle all of the problems and complaints that come in at the Federal level. Professor Gellhorn, as you mentioned, in his book made the comment that there is no magic to the number one—perhaps we could set up four or five or six ombudsmen. In this connection, would a form of regional ombudsmen with jurisdiction, for example, over all of the Federal activities in a particular State or two States seem to work as an experiment in your mind?

Mr. JERRE WILLIAMS. Mr. Kass, I would, certainly, anticipate some jurisdictional problems in matters that go between States, and I am sure you have anticipated them, too. But in general, this kind of approach of experimenting with the ombudsman concept in a region or at a lower governmental level or in a more selected area, as the chairman's bill does, it seems to me, is the way to work effectively toward the proving out of this concept.

Mr. KASS. As an experiment?