

have no element of criminality may nevertheless warrant disciplinary proceedings or some other personnel action. Hence I would simply instruct the Ombudsman to "refer the matter to the appropriate authorities," leaving to him the question of whether in a particular instance the "appropriate authorities" are the Department of Justice or someone else.

May I repeat, in closing, that S. 1195 impresses me most favorably. The suggestions I have made concern minor points that do not affect the core of your proposal.

Sincerely yours,

WALTER GELLHORN,
Betts Professor of Law.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND,
Washington, D.C., January 29, 1968.

HON. EDWARD V. LONG,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Administrative Practices and Procedures, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: At the time your committee resumes holding public hearings on S. 1195, your bill to establish the Office of Administrative Ombudsman to investigate administrative practices and procedures of selected agencies of the United States, the National Federation of the Blind requests the opportunity to appear and present testimony in support of this proposed legislation.

The National Federation of the Blind is a nationwide organization with a membership primarily of blind persons.

As you well know, Congress has created certain federal programs for the benefit and assistance of persons disabled by loss of sight.

Some of these programs are administered by federal agencies, while others are administered by state agencies with the participating financial support and under the over-all direction of federal agencies.

Such programs as the Social Security-based Disability Insurance, Aid to the Blind, Vocational Rehabilitation, the Vending Stand Program under the Randolph-Sheppard Act, and Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, have as their sole purpose, the providing of financial help or services to physically disabled men and women, to blind men and women.

Yet, too often, when blind people apply to such programs for aid and assistance, they encounter unjustifiable rejection, protracted delays, inadequate assistance, or services of poor quality.

We of the National Federation of the Blind believe that enactment of S. 1195 into law with the establishment of the Office of Administrative Ombudsman to serve as a high-level special pleader for ordinary citizens in their dealings with Government would be of immeasurable benefit.

To the National Federation of the Blind, to blind persons, it would mean there would be a known and recognized resource and authority to turn to when seemingly needless obstacles, and seemingly ceaseless delays, prevent them from obtaining the help and services they believe Congress intended for them when they created such programs.

We of the National Federation of the Blind believe an Administrative Ombudsman with the authority to investigate and adjudicate difficulties, would serve, too, as a Damoclean Sword, and should result, not only in the more expeditious solving of many problems not now solved or only solved now after long delays, but the mere existence of the Ombudsman should result in improved administration of federal programs.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN F. NAGLE,
Chief, Washington Office.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., *March 14, 1967.*

HON. EDWARD V. LONG,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I have read with much interest your press release stating that you have introduced legislation providing for the appointment of an Ombudsman of the United States. This is, as you point out, a step in the right direction. However, the Ombudsman should have jurisdiction to investigate the judiciary,