

SURVEY OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, PART I—CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., in room 2203, Rayburn House Office Building, the Honorable Jack Brooks, chairman of the subcommittee, presiding.

Present: Representatives Jack Brooks (presiding), William S. Moorhead, William J. Randall, and Fletcher Thompson.

Also present: Ernest C. Baynard, staff administrator, William M. Jones, counsel; Irma Reel, clerk; and Lynne Higginbotham, clerk.

Mr. BROOKS. The Government Activities Subcommittee, having been duly organized under the rules of the House of Representatives, and a quorum being present, the meeting is hereby called to order.

This subcommittee is charged with determining the economy and efficiency at all levels of the operations and activities of 12 departments and agencies. Today we are beginning a series of hearings which we hope will enable this subcommittee to carry out its responsibility to the fullest extent. One of the major problems up to this point has been the difficulty of defining agency operations in a manner in which expenditures can be directly correlated with benefits and in units of such size that an effective and meaningful evaluation can be made. We want to be able to readily determine what the taxpayer is getting for his money.

In 1965, the President directed the executive agencies to prepare their budget requests on a program basis, a program being an identifiable function for which the agency is responsible. In these hearings, we plan to review the agencies' operations on a program breakdown along the same lines. In this way, it will be possible to get directly to the point of determining what the taxpayer is buying with his tax dollar.

The agencies will be asked to explain what each of their programs is, how much was spent on it, and what benefit the public will receive for this expenditure. It will then be possible to evaluate to some extent the progress of the programs from year to year and to determine which programs require closer scrutiny. This approach will also be helpful in establishing program priorities throughout the Government and will assist in locating duplicate activities.