

We just got instructions the other day to revise the rules again. We have changed them twice or three times in the last 7 years. They still try to get around them or have some excuse. Even the matter of postponement of hearings has gotten to the point where they know the one good reason that they have is somebody is sick.

So somebody has got to get sick. You know you can get a doctor's certificate for \$5 or \$10, so that doesn't do us much good.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Stillwell.

Mr. STILLWELL. The activities which the Office of Proceedings is engaged in consist generally of processing to decision all the formal cases and many of the informal cases of the Commission. They include applications for motor carrier operating rights, applications for water carrier operating rights, rate changes, temporary authorities of various kinds, and so forth. We do have a little jurisdiction of the rates of pipelines.

It is a big operation. It involves a large number of people. Included in the operation, of course, are the Commissioners and their staff, the staff of the Office of Proceedings, and the support staffs that are in the Bureau of Traffic and the Bureau of Accounts.

The Commission has no control for the most part over the number of proceedings which they are called upon to handle. Most of the proceedings are initiated by the carriers or by the shippers or by other people who are interested in some phase of our transportation activities.

We have no alternative but to process them and process them in the best way we can and in the fastest way we can. So we have set up an organization which we feel is very efficient.

The cases of major importance, general transportation importance, are decided at the Commission or the division level.

All the other cases which we call of minor and lesser importance are handled by review boards or decisional boards of employees. That includes the rate changes which are first handled by the Board of Suspension. It includes temporary authorities for motor carriers. It includes decisions in all the areas in which we operate by five review boards.

All the board actions are subject to an appeal. Any decision of our employee boards may be appealed to the appropriate division of the Commission, so we are able, through the employee board system, to move the cases at a fast pace and give a quick decision, and at the same time, preserve to them the right of appeal to the division or the Commission.

The cases come in very fast. We have big cases. We have small ones. We have a case which may involve a request for motor carrier authority that is unopposed. We can handle that very promptly. We use nothing but an order granting or denying it. That decision is made by an employee board.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Stillwell, could we give you the right to revise and extend your comments?

Mr. STILLWELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. BROOKS. At this point maybe we had better move on if we are going to hear from the other program directors, Mr. Chairman. Would you include, Mr. Stillwell, the number of personnel in your particular operations?

Mr. STILLWELL. Yes, sir. There are 732.