

During the past several years, the Commission has done much to improve its way of doing business. We have made major reorganizations and instituted far-reaching procedural innovations in order to meet our responsibilities within tight budgetary restrictions. The luxuries, such as specialization, enjoyed by most agencies, have been foregone in an effort to handle our mounting workload. We are now at the point where we have exhausted major avenues of self-help. This was pointed out to the Bureau of the Budget in our budget transmittal letter and reiterated to the BOB staff during the budget hearing that we have cut our programs to the point that further reductions would seriously impair the Commission's ability to carry out its legislative responsibilities. Despite our appeals to the BOB, our end of fiscal year 1968 position ceiling was reduced by 74 positions, and our 1969 allowance was established at the same reduced level. It was the Commission's position that it would not jeopardize all of its programs by across-the-board reductions. Thus it was necessary to eliminate one program in its entirety and drastically reduce two others. The situation has not changed. If further reductions are imposed, the Commission will have to reevaluate its remaining programs and apply the reduction in those areas having the lowest priority. Although we have not yet curtailed any of the resources available to the proceedings area, we can hardly escape such action if further substantial reductions are made. This, of course, will only jeopardize our ability to cope with the heavy proceedings caseload and will undoubtedly cause delays in processing cases to conclusion.

19. If additional funds were available, what would you do with the new money?

Because of the increasing complexity of the proceedings before the Commission and the suits challenging the Commission's actions, additional funds being made available for this program would be used to hire two additional attorneys and supporting personnel for the Office of the General Counsel. All other functions of this program relate to the present level of substantive operations of the Commission. Additional funds would not be required unless our present level of substantive operations would appreciably increase.