

INTERCITY RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE

I - A SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

We have requested this opportunity in order to report to the Congress on the status of intercity rail service and our stewardship of section 13a of the Interstate Commerce Act, which was enacted in 1958 to provide limited Federal jurisdiction over the discontinuance of rail passenger service.

Intercity rail passenger service in this nation has been declining rapidly since 1950. In a period when intercity travel has more than doubled, rail service has shrunk to less than half of its former size. At a time when the demand for intercity service is expected to double, more and more people are accepting the inevitability of losing the last remaining medium and long-distance rail service.

In the last ten years -

- . The number of regular intercity trains has declined nearly 60 percent.
- . Thirteen railroads have abandoned all intercity service, and seven have only one pair of trains left.