

The Commission began the hearing of testimony on the 12th day of April, 1967, and concluded the hearing of testimony on the 8th day of July, 1967. The Committee heard testimony on 16 different days and on a number of said days the testimony was taken from early in the morning to late in the evening. The transcribed testimony of said hearings consisted of ten volumes of testimony, or a total of 2,723 pages of testimony. The Committee was assisted in its investigation by Mr. Jeff R. Laird, a very capable attorney who has had many years of experience with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and by a very capable staff consisting of Mr. Fred L. Boettcher, Assistant Investigator, Mrs. Jean Cason, Certified Shorthand Reporter, who transcribed all the testimony in the hearings and Mrs. Margaret Carroll, who was responsible for compiling additional copies of the transcript of the testimony and records and documents to be distributed at the direction of the Committee. Mr. Laird interviewed each witness before he testified before the Committee and those witnesses who were reluctant to appear voluntarily were compelled to appear before the Committee by subpoena or subpoena duces tecum, when records were required.

In addition to the transcript of the testimony and the documents copied therein, a tremendous amount of records and documents were gathered by the counsel of the Committee from the various witnesses, which documents and records were reviewed by the Committee and copies of pertinent documents were reproduced and distributed to the individual members of the Committee.

It should be emphasized that this Committee is a Legislative Investigating Committee and not an accusatory body. It should be further emphasized that this Committee sat as an investigating committee and not as a court, and that the Committee is aware that persons accused of wrong-doing or irregularity are not accorded the opportunity of cross-examination of witnesses appearing before the Committee. This was considered by the Committee to be necessary to insure an expeditious and orderly proceedings. However, it should be acknowledged that this Committee received testimony or other evidence that would not be admissible in any judicial proceedings. Recognizing this fact, the Committee would like to report that the members of said Committee in their deliberations have endeavored to discount and discard incompetent or irrelevant evidence when considering the question of individual wrong-doing, irregularities or misdeeds, but the Committee does point out that such evidence was somewhat beneficial in formulating recommendations for remedial legislation insofar as it suggested possibilities which could be corrected or improved by legislation.

From the beginning and throughout the conduct of this investigation, the Committee adopted two purposes of this investigation, which are as follows:

1. The determination of needed legislation, if any, and the determination of any needed changes in the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, if any, which said proposed constitutional changes would have to be approved by a vote of the people.
2. The determination of any wrong-doing or law violations, if any, and the referral of any cases of wrong-doing or probable law violation to the proper governmental agency or the proper association for appropriate action, with the realization that this Committee and the Oklahoma State Senate are without authority to prosecute any person for a law violation or to take disciplinary action against any member of any profession.

After hearing many days of testimony of witnesses sworn and examined under oath and after reviewing the voluminous transcript of the testimony and after reviewing numerous documents, including but not limited to income tax returns, cancelled checks, personal records, pleadings in court cases and bank statements, the Committee makes the following findings:

1. That the members of the Corporation Commission and certain employees of said commission have not been and are not now adequately paid and that this has contributed to the members of the commission and the employees seeking other income to supplement the salary received from the Corporation Commission. However, it is the further finding of the Committee that improvement of wages and salaries have been made in the passage of recent legislation and that this is particularly true in the oil and gas division of the Corporation Commission and likewise of the salaries of the members of the Corporation Commission.

2. There is a built in conflict of interest in the regulated industries which must be resolved by the Corporation Commission, in that the commission is charged with the duties of regulating utilities in one division of the commission, the regulating of intrastate transportation in another division and the regulation of correlative rights with reference to oil and gas in yet another division.