Senator MILLER. I would not want to ask the Secretary to come back, although I have some questions. Could we have the same procedure that we have followed to date, that each member could have questions answered by him?

Chairman PATMAN. That has already been agreed on. And any member of this committee who desires to ask the Secretary or anyone of these gentlemen questions may do so. Ordinarily, we only have one statement anyway, Mr. Walker, from the Secretary, and the others; and if you want to ask any questions, you may proceed.

Mr. WALKER. I understand. And in this instance we very much shortened each statement so the total would be comparable to a regular statement.

Chairman PATMAN. With the understanding that if questions do not bring out the information you want to bring out you will be allowed to do so.

Mr. WALKER. Thank you.

(The prepared statement of Under Secretary Charls E. Walker, follows:)

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE CHARLS E. WALKER, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mr. WALKER. I am grateful for the opportunity of expressing to the committee the great interest of the Treasury Department in pressing forward with a program of tax reform and equitable tax administration. The President and the Secretary have emphasized both publicly and to me that these matters are to have a high priority in this administration, and the Treasury will bend every effort to attain these goals.

We have assured Representatives Wilbur D. Mills and John W. Byrnes, Chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, of our desire and intention to work closely with their committee in connection with the hearings on tax revision proposals that commenced yesterday. We are reviewing carefully the proposals developed at the Treasury Department under the previous administration which have recently been published. We are working on the development of proposals and plan to present them at the proper time to the Ways and Means Committee.

We hope to accomplish this as soon as possible consistent with the need for filling key vacancies in the Treasury Department staff and the desirability of developing and recommending a coordinated and orderly program of legislation.

Our first concern is with the equitable distribution of the income tax burden. The outgoing Secretary of the Treasury recently called attention to some of the problems involved on this score, and the agenda for the current Ways and Means Committee lists these and others. We regard the matter of tax revision to achieve equity as of fundamental importance, deserving of the most urgent attention in the administration and in the Congress. We shall strive to achieve also a good measure of simplification in this complex field. It may well be necessary to approach this task in stages, accomplishing first those changes that permit of ready solution and examining at greater length more fundamental revisions of the tax structure.