

ER9035

21 April 1948

Mr. Herbert Hoover  
Commission on Organization of the  
Executive Branch of the Government  
1626 K Street N. W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am in receipt of your letter of 16 April 1948 regarding work being conducted by the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government.

I have been authorized to make available information now being compiled in conjunction with the survey under the auspices of the National Security Council with the understanding that any reports, etc., furnished your Committee will be returned to the National Security Council. It should be noted that the report of this survey may not be completed for a considerable time.

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[redacted], U. S. Navy, the Executive Director of Central Intelligence, will be available to you and your Committee on foreign affairs for purposes of assisting your Commission, and can be contacted by phone at [redacted].

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I trust that the above arrangements are agreeable to you.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

R. H. HILLENKOETTER  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence

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Executive Director  
Central Records

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April 16, 1948

Rear Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter  
Director of Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D. C.

Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

The Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, established by P.L. 162, 80th Congress, is charged by the Congress with investigating and reporting on the present organization and methods of operation of all instrumentalities of the executive branch of the government. One phase of this investigation is the intelligence activities of the various departments and other agencies, for which the Central Intelligence Agency has the responsibility of coordination in the interest of national security.

In view of certain information you have made available to the Chairman of the Commission as to the independent study currently being made in the field of government intelligence under the auspices of the National Security Council, it would appear unnecessary for the Commission to conduct a separate investigation. It does appear desirable, however, for the Commission, through approved representatives, to receive information on this study currently being made so that an appraisal can be made of the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and its relationship to Department of State and other departments and agencies performing intelligence functions.

It is believed that the most desirable means by which information as to the current study can be received is through the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Commission. This Committee is composed of Messrs. Harvey H. Bundy and James Grafton Rogers, both of whom are former Assistant Secretaries of State. During World War II, Mr. Bundy, as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of War, served as the personal and confidential assistant of Hon. Henry L. Stimson. Mr. Rogers likewise was in government service during World War II as a Deputy Director in the Office of Strategic Services. In addition, Mr. John F. Meck, Jr., Executive Secretary of the Committee, will be working with Messrs. Bundy and Rogers and will have access to information received.

Appropriate arrangements will be worked out with you to insure the safeguarding of information received by the Committee. Insofar as you deem it desirable, information received will be confined to the

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three individuals above named and myself, and only our conclusions on organizational structure will be reported to the Commission. In this category would be information as to personnel strength and budgetary requirements of the Central Intelligence Agency.

It is understood that you will take up this matter with the National Security Council and obtain the necessary approval for the arrangements outlined above to be carried into effect.

A copy of P.L. 162 is enclosed in order to give you full information as to the nature and extent of the authority of the Commission.

Faithfully yours,

HERBERT HOOVER

Enclosure

JFH:rw

PUBLIC LAW 162--80th CONGRESS

CHAPTER 207--1st SESSION

H. R. 775

AN ACT

For the establishment of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

DECLARATION OF POLICY

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress to promote economy, efficiency, and improved service in the transaction of the public business in the departments, bureaus, agencies, boards, commissions, offices, independent establishments, and instrumentalities of the executive branch of the Government by--

- (1) limiting expenditures to the lowest amount consistent with the efficient performance of essential services, activities, and functions;
- (2) eliminating duplication and overlapping of services, activities, and functions;
- (3) consolidating services, activities, and functions of a similar nature;
- (4) abolishing services, activities, and functions not necessary to the efficient conduct of government; and
- (5) defining and limiting executive functions, services, and activities.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION ON ORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SEC. 2. For the purpose of carrying out the policy set forth in section 1 of this Act, there is hereby established a bipartisan commission to be known as the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government (in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 3. (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.--The Commission shall be composed of twelve members as follows:

- (1) Four appointed by the President of the United States, two from the executive branch of the Government and two from private life;
- (2) Four appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, two from the Senate and two from private life; and
- (3) Four appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two from the House of Representatives and two from private life.

(b) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.--Of each class of two members mentioned in subsection (a), not more than one member shall be from each of the two major political parties.

(c) VACANCIES.--Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 4. The Commission shall elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman from among its members.

#### QUORUM

SEC. 5. Seven members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

#### COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 6. (a) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.--Members of Congress who are members of the Commission shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as Members of Congress; but they shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties vested in the Commission.

(b) MEMBERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.--The members of the Commission who are in the executive branch of the Government shall each receive the compensation which he would receive if he were not a member of the Commission, plus such additional compensation, if any (notwithstanding section 6 of the Act of May 10, 1916, as amended; 39 Stat. 582; 5 U.S.C. 58), as is necessary to make his aggregate salary \$12,500; and they shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties vested in the Commission.

(c) MEMBERS FROM PRIVATE LIFE.--The members from private life shall each receive \$50 per diem when engaged in the performance of duties vested in the Commission, plus reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of such duties.

#### STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 7. The Commission shall have power to appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as it deems advisable, in accordance with the provisions of the civil-service laws and the Classification Act of 1923, as amended.

#### EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 8. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, so much as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

#### EXPIRATION OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 9. Ninety days after the submission to the Congress of the report provided for in section 10 (b), the Commission shall cease to exist.

#### DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 10. (a) INVESTIGATION.--The Commission shall study and investigate the present organization and methods of operation of all departments, bureaus, agencies, boards, commissions, offices, independent establishments, and instrumentalities of the executive branch of the Government, to determine what changes therein are necessary in their opinion to accomplish the purposes set forth in section 1 of this Act.

(b) REPORT.--Within ten days after the Eighty-first Congress is convened and organized, the Commission shall make a report of its findings and recommendations to the Congress,

#### POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 11. (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.--The Commission, or any member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, and take such testimony, as the Commission or such member may deem advisable. Any member of the Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before the Commission or before such member.

(b) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.--The Commission is authorized to secure directly from any executive department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics for the purpose of this Act; and each such department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, establishment, or instrumentality is authorized and directed to furnish such information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics directly to the Commission, upon request made by the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

Approved July 7, 1947.