

The joint committee proposed that the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds be eliminated and matters within its purview come under the jurisdiction of a new committee—the Senate Committee on Interior, Natural Resources and Public Works. This committee would have jurisdiction over commerce, Indian affairs, interoceanic canals, irrigation and reclamation, mines and mining, public buildings and grounds, public lands and surveys, and territories and insular affairs.

Senate members of the Joint Committee were designated a Special Senate Committee on the Organization of Congress, and on May 31, 1946, they reported S. 2177, embodying with a few amendments the recommendations of the Joint Committee. One major change from the original proposal was the omission of language providing for self-government for the District of Columbia. A separate bill had already been introduced for that purpose.

The bill reported by the special committee differed from the joint committee's recommendation in one important respect in regard to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. Rather than incorporating public works, public lands, and commerce oversight into one comprehensive committee, the special committee recommended that separate committees be assigned to each of these areas. According to the report on S. 2177, a committee with jurisdiction so extensive as that originally proposed would be heavily overburdened. Thus, the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, rather than becoming a part of the Committee on Interior, Natural Resources and Public Works, would instead be given some additional jurisdictions and would become the Committee on Public Works. Several areas which were at that time within the purview of the Committee on Commerce were recommended for inclusion in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Public Works:

1. Flood control and improvement of rivers and harbors;
2. Public works for the benefit of navigation, and bridges and dams (other than international bridges and dams);
3. Water power; and
4. Oil and other pollution of navigable waters.

It was proposed that the Committee on Public Works also be given jurisdiction over post offices and post roads, which were then under the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

The Committee on Public Works would, of course, retain the areas of jurisdiction which had been enjoyed by its predecessor:

1. Public buildings and occupied or improved grounds of the United States generally;
2. Measures relating to the purchase of sites and construction of post offices, customs houses, Federal courthouses, and Government buildings within the District of Columbia;
3. Measures relating to the Capitol Building and the Senate and House Office Buildings;
4. Measures relating to the construction or reconstruction, maintenance, and care of the buildings and grounds of the Botanic Gardens, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution; and

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This task was complicated by new limitations imposed on subcommittee membership of individual Senators. Despite the increased number of subjects requiring its attention, the committee was prohibited by these limitations from creating additional subcommittees. The answer was found in retaining six subcommittees, reducing the membership of some and drastically altering their responsibilities. The committee began its substantive work for the year with three generally environmental and three generally public works subcommittees, each with seven members. The public works-related subcommittees were Transportation, Regional and Community Development, and Water Resources. Those concerned with environmental matters were Environmental Pollution, Nuclear Regulation, and Resource Protection.

The scope of the newly-reorganized committee was reflected in the fact that there was no longer room for a separate Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, the original jurisdiction of the predecessor committees and its direct link with the early 19th Century Buildings and grounds matters were assigned to the Subcommittee on Regional and Community Development. For a while, they were considered at the full committee level. Buildings and grounds today are among the duties of a more comprehensive subcommittee, currently the Subcommittee on Water Resources, Transportation, and Infrastructure.

The subcommittee structure devised in 1977 remained in place for four years until the Environment and Public Works Committee came under Republican leadership. At that time the responsibilities and names of the six subcommittees were revised. In 1987 the Democratic party again assumed majority status. The committee then reduced the number of subcommittees to five, concentrating virtually all public works activities in a single subcommittee and dividing environmental duties among the other four.

The committee now consists of the subcommittees on Environmental Protection, Hazardous Wastes and Toxic Substances, Nuclear Regulation, Superfund and Environmental Oversight, and Water Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure.

JURISDICTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Jurisdictions of committees are established by the full Senate as part of the rules for the operation of the body. Since 1977, the areas of jurisdiction of the Committee have not changed.

Rule XXV, section 1. (h) of the standing rules of the Senate reads as follows:

"(h)(1) Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which Committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

1. Air pollution.
2. Construction and maintenance of highways.

3. Environmental aspects of Outer Continental Shelf lands.
4. Environmental effects of toxic substances, other than pesticides.
5. Environmental policy.
6. Environmental research and development.
7. Fisheries and wildlife.
8. Flood control and improvements of rivers and harbors, including environmental aspects of deepwater ports.
9. Noise pollution.
10. Nonmilitary environmental regulation and control of nuclear energy.
11. Ocean dumping.
12. Public buildings and improved grounds of the United States generally, including Federal buildings in the District of Columbia.
13. Public works, bridges, and dams.
14. Regional economic development.
15. Solid waste disposal and recycling.
16. Water pollution.
17. Water resources.

"(2) Such committee shall also study and review, on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to environmental protection and resource utilization and conservation, and report thereon from time to time."

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMITTEE STAFF

The growth and composition of the staff of the Committee on Environment and Public Works has generally paralleled that of other Senate Committees.

The appointment of committee clerks had been authorized since the 1850s, but until the post-World War II period Senate committees functioned with very little staff. The executive branch provided much of the support that is now available internally. Such Senate staff as there was devoted itself largely to correspondence and record-keeping.

The shift in staffing patterns began shortly after World War II, when the Nation, and consequently the Congress, was faced with an ever-increasing number of issues that reflected a changing society and the emergence of the United States as a world power. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as part of its restructuring of the committee system, authorized each committee to hire a maximum of four professional staff and six clerical staff.

In the 80th Congress (1947-48), the Committee on Public Works, newly-named and with an expanded jurisdiction, operated with a staff of 10—six clerks and four professionals. The staff declined to four in the next couple of years. It fluctuated between four and 10 until the mid-1960's when a period of steady increase began.

This period coincided with the evolution of new subject matter for committee consideration—air and water pollution, economic development, and disaster relief among them. In the Senate at large, staff expansion also was under way, at least partially in reaction to the hostility that existed between the Congress and the Administration in the late 1960's and early 1970's and the desire of the Congress to reduce its dependence on the executive branch.

89th Congress

1st Session, January 4, 1965-October 23, 1965

Democrats
 Pat McNamara, MI, Chairman
 Jennings Randolph, WV
 Stephen M. Young, OH
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 Ernest Gruening, AK
 Frank E. Moss, UT
 Lee Metcalf, MT
 B. Everett Jordan, NC
 Daniel K. Inouye, HI
 Birch Bayh, IN
 Joseph M. Montoya, NM
 Fred R. Harris, OK

2nd Session, January 10, 1966-October 22, 1966

Democrats
 Pat McNamara, MI, Chairman*
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chairman*
 Stephen M. Young, OH
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 Ernest Gruening, AK
 Frank E. Moss, UT
 Lee Metcalf, MT+
 B. Everett Jordan, NC
 Daniel K. Inouye, HI
 Birch Bayh, IN
 Joseph M. Montoya, NM
 Fred R. Harris, OK
 Joseph D. Tydings, MD#

*died April 30, 1966; Sen. Randolph assumed chairmanship of committee.
 +resigned from the committee January 14, 1966.
 #assigned to the committee January 14, 1966.
 **assigned to the committee May 17, 1966.

90th Congress

1st Session, January 10, 1967-December 15, 1967
 2nd Session, January 15, 1968-October 14, 1968

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chairman
 Stephen M. Young, OH
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 Ernest Gruening, AK
 B. Everett Jordan, NC
 Daniel K. Inouye, HI
 Birch Bayh, IN
 Joseph M. Montoya, NM
 Joseph D. Tydings, MD
 William B. Spong, Jr., VA

Republicans
 John Sherman Cooper, KY
 Hiram L. Fong, HI
 J. Caleb Boggs, DE
 George Murphy, CA
 Len B. Jordan, ID
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN

91st Congress

1st Session, January 3, 1969-December 23, 1969
 2nd Session, January 19, 1970-January 2, 1971

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chairman
 Stephen M. Young, OH
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 B. Everett Jordan, NC
 Birch Bayh, IN
 Joseph M. Montoya, NM
 William B. Spong, Jr., VA
 Thomas F. Eagleton, MO
 Mike Gravel, AK

Republicans
 John Sherman Cooper, KY
 J. Caleb Boggs, DE
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN
 Robert J. Dole, KS
 Edward J. Gurney, FL
 Robert W. Packwood, OR

92nd Congress

1st Session, January 21, 1971-December 17, 1971

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chmn.
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 B. Everett Jordan, NC
 Birch Bayh, IN
 Joseph M. Montoya, NM
 Thomas F. Eagleton, MO
 Mike Gravel, AK
 John V. Tunney, CA
 Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., TX

Republicans
 John Sherman Cooper, KY
 J. Caleb Boggs, DE
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN
 Robert J. Dole, KS
 J. Glenn Beall, Jr., MD*
 James L. Buckley, NY
 Lowell P. Weicker, CT
 Robert T. Stafford, VT+

*excused from further service on the committee September 21, 1971.
 +assigned to the committee September 21, 1971.

2nd Session, January 18, 1972-October 18, 1972

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chmn.
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 B. Everett Jordan, NC
 Birch Bayh, IN*
 Joseph M. Montoya, NM
 Thomas F. Eagleton, MO
 Mike Gravel, AK
 John V. Tunney, CA
 Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., TX
 Elaine S. Edwards, LA**

Republicans
 John Sherman Cooper, KY
 J. Caleb Boggs, DE
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN
 Robert J. Dole, KS
 James L. Buckley, NY
 Lowell P. Weicker, CT+
 Robert T. Stafford, VT
 Karl E. Mundt, SD#

*excused from further service on the committee August 2, 1972.
 +excused from further service on the committee February 23, 1972.
 #assigned to the committee February 23, 1972; retired January 3, 1973.
 **assigned to the committee August 2, 1972; resigned November 13, 1972.

95th Congress
 1st Session, January 3, 1973-December 22, 1973
 2nd Session, January 21, 1974-December 20, 1974

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chmn.
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 Joseph M. Montoya, NM
 Mike Gravel, AK
 Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., TX
 Quentin N. Burdick, ND
 Dick Clark, IA
 Joseph R. Biden, Jr., DE

Republicans
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN
 James L. Buckley, NY
 Robert T. Stafford, VT
 William L. Scott, VA
 James A. McClure, ID
 Pete V. Domenici, NM

94th Congress

1st Session, January 14, 1975-December 19, 1975

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chmn.
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 Joseph M. Montoya, NM
 Mike Gravel, AK
 Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., TX
 Quentin N. Burdick, ND
 John C. Culver, IA
 Robert Morgan, NC
 Gary W. Hart, CO

Republicans
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN
 James L. Buckley, NY
 Robert T. Stafford, VT
 James A. McClure, ID
 Pete V. Domenici, NM

2nd Session, January 19, 1976-October 1, 1976

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chmn.
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 Joseph M. Montoya, NM
 Mike Gravel, AK
 Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., TX
 Quentin N. Burdick, ND
 John C. Culver, IA
 Robert Morgan, NC
 Gary W. Hart, CO

Republicans
 James L. Buckley, NY
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN
 Robert T. Stafford, VT
 James A. McClure, ID
 Pete V. Domenici, NM

1st Session, January 4, 1977-December 15, 1977

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chmn.
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 Mike Gravel, AK
 Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., TX
 Quentin N. Burdick, ND
 John C. Culver, IA
 Gary Hart, CO
 Wendell R. Anderson, MN
 Daniel P. Moynihan, NY

Republicans
 Robert T. Stafford, VT
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN
 James A. McClure, ID
 Pete V. Domenici, NM
 John H. Chafee, RI
 Malcolm Wallop, WY

*change in name and jurisdiction effective February 14, 1977.

2nd Session, January 19, 1978-October 15, 1978

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chmn.
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 Mike Gravel, AK
 Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., TX
 Quentin N. Burdick, ND
 John C. Culver, IA
 Gary Hart, CO
 Daniel P. Moynihan
 Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., AR

Republicans
 Robert T. Stafford, VT
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN
 James A. McClure, ID
 Pete V. Domenici, NM
 John H. Chafee, RI
 Malcolm Wallop, WY

96th Congress

1st Session, January 15, 1979-December 20, 1979

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chmn.
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME
 Mike Gravel, AK
 Lloyd M. Bentsen, TX
 Quentin N. Burdick, ND
 John C. Culver, IA
 Gary Hart, CO
 Daniel P. Moynihan, NY

Republicans
 Robert T. Stafford, VT
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN
 Pete V. Domenici, NM
 John H. Chafee, RI
 Alan K. Simpson, WY
 Larry Pressler, SD

2nd Session, January 3, 1980-December 16, 1980

Democrats
 Jennings Randolph, WV, Chmn.
 Edmund S. Muskie, ME*
 Mike Gravel, AK
 Lloyd M. Bentsen, TX
 Quentin N. Burdick, ND
 John C. Culver, IA
 Gary Hart, CO
 Daniel P. Moynihan, NY
 George J. Mitchell, ME*

Republicans
 Robert T. Stafford, VT
 Howard H. Baker, Jr., TN
 Pete V. Domenici, NM
 John H. Chafee, RI
 Alan K. Simpson, WY
 Larry Pressler, SD

*resigned from the Senate May 7, 1980.
 *assigned to the committee May 19, 1980.