

**Records of the Committee on
Interstate and Foreign Commerce
RG.233.88.IFC
88th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk U.S. House of Representatives**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

August 11, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20408
202-357-5350
legislative.archives@nara.gov

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6
<u>Bill Files</u>	6
<u>Committee Papers</u>	6
<u>Docket and Minute Books</u>	7
<u>Hearings</u>	7
<u>Legislative Files</u>	8
<u>Memorials and Petitions</u>	8

Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	Records of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce
Date [inclusive]	1963-1965
Extent	0.75 Cubic feet
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce came into existence in 1892 when the name of the Committee on Commerce was changed. During most of the 19th century, there had been some inconsistency in the referral of certain customs-related matters. After 1895, however, the jurisdiction over customs districts, ports of entry and delivery, the transportation of dutiable goods, and officers and employees in the customs service passed to the Committee on Ways and Means. Similarly, for many years after the establishment of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in December 1887, the division of jurisdiction over various matters relating to water transportation between the new committee and the Committee on Commerce (later, the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee) was inconsistently applied, but progressively more of these issues were referred to the Merchant Marine Committee. After passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the House rules defined the jurisdiction of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee as follows: Interstate and foreign commerce generally; regulation of interstate and foreign transportation, except transportation by water not subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission; regulation of interstate and foreign communications; civil aeronautics; weather bureau; interstate oil compacts; petroleum and natural gas, except on the public lands; securities and exchanges; regulation of interstate transmission of power, except the installation of connections between Government water power projects; railroad labor and railroad retirement and unemployment, except revenue measures relating thereto; public health and quarantine; inland waterways; and the Bureau of Standards and the standardization of weights and measures and the metric system.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House,

a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Collection Inventory

Bill Files 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The bill files of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce for this period are the heart of the committee's unbound records and make up two-thirds of the total quantity. Bill files are arranged by type of legislation, and thereunder, in numerical order. The main set of bill files contains copies of bills and committee reports. Occasionally bill files are several inches thick. In these cases the files also include background correspondence, proposed amendments, and/or transcripts of hearings.

Committee Papers 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce include numerically arranged executive communications, messages from the President, copies of printed hearings and reports, final editions of committee calendars, and 1958-1963 executive session transcripts for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Approximately 23 feet, nearly two-thirds of the committee papers, consist of executive communications. Printed hearings comprise approximately 9 feet of the total amount of committee papers (88A IFC.3). These hearings exist for the 80th (1947-1948) and 88-90th (1963-1968) Congresses. For the most part these are letters and publications sent to the Speaker of the House and then referred to the committee. They include draft proposals of legislation, reports submitted in compliance with U.S. law, and governmental publications and reports. These executive communications came from a variety of entities including the Federal Aviation Agency; the Civil Aeronautics Board; the Federal Communications Commission; the Federal Power Commission; the Federal Trade Commission; the Interstate Commerce Commission; the National Mediation Board; the Department of Commerce; the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; and the Government of the District of Columbia.

Docket and Minute Books

The executive session transcripts from the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, 1958-1963, are filed with committee papers for the 91st Congress. The main subjects discussed were television quiz shows, "payola" and related deceptive methods in the broadcast field, and broadcast ratings. Later records of the subcommittee include hearing files, case files, and other investigative records.

Docket and Minute Books 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The docket and minute books of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce are unique among all standing committees of the House in that the National Archives holds full sets for the period from 1947 to 1968. The minute books contain typed pages pasted into the volumes which give the following basic information on meetings: date, time of day, presiding official, subjects discussed, witnesses heard, and amendments approved or rejected. In addition, copies of committee prints with proposed text changes and mimeographed copies of amendments occasionally can be found pasted into a volume. The docket books have entries arranged in chronological order by type of measure: House bills, House Joint Resolutions, House Concurrent Resolutions, House Resolutions, Senate bills, and Senate Joint Resolutions. Generally each docket entry includes the measure's date of introduction, the bill number and name of Representative introducing it, the bill's purpose and whether it was superseded by another measure, and a full account--with dates--of what happened to the measure (comments from agencies and departments, subcommittee and full committee meetings, committee disposition, passage by House, and enactment into public law).

Hearings 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The printed hearings of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce comprise approximately 9 feet of the total amount of committee papers. These hearings exist for the 88th-90th (1963-1968) Congresses. Topics focus on a wide variety of subjects, including matters relating to aviation,

Legislative Files

communications, the Federal Trade Commission, public health, railroad retirement provisions, and surface and water transportation.

Legislative Files 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The legislative files of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce for the 89th-90th (1965-1968) Congresses, range in size from 5 to 20 inches per Congress. These "legislative files" contain full documentation on the measure in question, including relevant pages from the "Congressional Record."

Memorials and Petitions 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The memorials and petitions of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce mainly call for an end to alcoholic beverage advertisements on radio and television.