Records of the Committee on Government Operations
RG.233.89.GO
89th Congress

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	Records of the Committee on Government Operations
Date [inclusive]	1965-1967
Extent	Amount unknown
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

On July 3, 1952, the Committee was renamed the Committee on Government Operations. The jurisdiction of the Committee on Government Operations pursuant to the rules of the 90th Congress included: budget and accounting measures, other than appropriations; reorganizations in the executive branch of the Government; receiving and examining reports of the Comptroller General of the United States and of submitting such recommendations to the House as it deems necessary or desirable in connection with the subject matter of such reports; studying the operation of Government activities at all levels with a view to determining its economy and efficiency; evaluating the effects of laws enacted to reorganize the legislative and executive branches of the Government; studying intergovernmental relationships between the United States and States and municipalities, and between the United States and international organizations of which the United States is a member.

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 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The bill files of the Committee on Government Operations contain records relating to a wide variety of subjects, many of which concern economy and efficiency of governmental operations. The researchers should be aware that records relating to specific legislation may be found in full committee bill files or in bill files generated by the subcommittee that reported the legislation. Occasionally bill files on a bill or resolution were kept at both the full committee and subcommittee levels.

Committee Papers 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Government Operations include: calendars; committee prints of House reports and documents; transcripts of executive sessions; prints and transcripts of hearings; reference materials; administrative records; and minutes of meetings. There are reports of negotiated sales and disposals of governmental property (5 ft.), and inventory reports from agencies providing information on their properties and assets (2 ft.). The committee papers also contain a series of chronological and alphabetical "reading" files for the 88th-90th Congresses (4 ft.); records kept by William L. Dawson on the work of the subcommittees; and, for most Congresses, General Accounting Office audit reports, often arranged by the subcommittee to which they were referred. There are 47 feet of executive communications, including reports, from agencies and a small quantity of records on reorganization plans submitted annually by the President and subsequent action; and the committee papers for each Congress generally contain a distinct subject file providing information on the agencies and topics with which the committee dealt. Administrative files, including personnel and payroll files, and correspondence to and from committee members, can be found in the committee's records for the 92nd Congress. Records documenting Death Valley and Timber Sales practices from 1964-1965, and

chronological files, are in the records of the Subcommittee on Conservation and Natural Resources for the 92nd Congress.

Petitions and Memorials 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials of the Committee on Government Operations relate to the creation and termination of federal agencies.

Subcommittees and Special Subcommittees 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The records of the subcommittees (244 ft.) of the Committee on Government Operations include minutes, reports, correspondence, memoranda, General Accounting Office audit reports, bills and resolutions referred to subcommittee and accompanying papers, printed copies and transcripts of hearings, prints of committee and House reports, transcripts of executive sessions, and subject files on agencies. Not every type of record is available for each subcommittee.

Subcommittee on Executive and Legislative Reorganization 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

Most of the records of the Subcommittee on Executive and Legislative Reorganization (38 ft.), Committee on Government Operations, relate to reorganizations, including the establishment of departments, agencies, commissions, and assignments of governmental functions to agencies and departments (89 GO.5, 89 GO.7, 89 GO.17-19, 89 GO.25). The largest quantity of records (8 ft.) pertains to an 1960-1966 investigation of the Foreign Agricultural Service (89 GO.16). Vouchers and payroll records of the Subcommittee on Executive and Legislative Reorganization can be found in records of the Committee on Government Operations for the 92nd Congress.

Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information (3 ft.), Committee on Government Operations, document a variety of investigations and studies conducted during the mid-1960s, including the use of polygraphs as "lie detectors" by the Federal Government; U.S. economic aid and military assistance programs in Vietnam; U.S. aid operations in Latin America under the Alliance for Progress program; and issues related to access to governmental information (89 GO.5, 89 GO.7, 89 GO.25). Approximately 5 inches of records from this subcommittee for the 89th Congress are in the records of the Legislative and National Security Subcommittee for the 92th Congress. They provide information about trips to Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, to inspect various aid programs in 1966, 1967, and 1968; and trips to Brazil to inspect U.S. aid operations under the Alliance for Progress program. Additional records, including extensions of remarks and press releases of John E. Moss, can be found in the records of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information from the 92nd Congress; and a 1966 report on Vietnam and responses to government information questionnaries from 1965.

Subcommittee on Government Activities 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Subcommittee on Government Activities (24 ft.), Committee on Government Operations, provide information about the purchase and use of automated data processing equipment by the Federal Government (89 GO.5); and the various agencies the committee had oversight responsibility for, including the General Services Administration.

Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations (20 ft.), Committee on Government Operations, pertain to a variety of investigations and studies, including those related to commercial and industrial-type activities in the Federal Government. Topics covered include business operations of Billie Sol Estes with the Government (89 GO.7); and the safety of new drugs (89 GO.5 and 89 GO.7). Vouchers and payroll records of the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations can be found in records of the Committee on Government Operations for the 92nd Congress.

Subcommittee on Legal and Monetary Affairs 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Subcommittee on Legal and Monetary Affairs (18 ft.), Committee on Government Operations, provide information about a variety of subjects the committee studied or investigated. The subcommittee reviewed the activities of the Federal Reserve Board (89 GO.5, 89 GO.27).

Subcommittee on Legislative and National Security 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Subcommittee on Legislative and National Security (10 in.) that document the creation of the Department of Transportation were retired with records of the Legislative and National Security Subcommittee for the 92d Congress.

Subcommittee on Military Operations 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Subcommittee on Military Operations (30 ft.), Committee on Government Operations, provide information about a wide variety of topics, including the military property accounting systems; procurement policies and practices; organization and operation of the military supply management program; disposition of military surplus property; defense contracts; civil defense management; organization and management of the military missile programs; management of nuclear submarine

development; Government use of satellite communication; use of computers in information retrieval; and unnecessary costs in various programs (89 GO.5, 89 GO.28, 89 GO.7). There are 2 feet of subcommittee records for the 86th-90th Congresses that were retired by the Legislative and National Security Subcommittee. Included in these records is information about flight pay, chemical warfare, communication satellites, and military and civilian missile programs. Vouchers and payroll records of the Subcommittee on Military Operations can be found in records of the Committee on Government Operations for the 92nd Congress.

Subcommittee on National Resources and Power 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Subcommittee on National Resources and Power, Committee on Government Operations, include information about problems with the Nation's water resources and water pollution control (89 GO.5 and 89 GO.29).

Subcommittee on Public Works and Resources 1965-1966

Scope and Contents note

Vouchers and payroll records of the Subcommittee on Public Works and Resources of the Committee on Government Operations can be found in records of the Committee on Government Operations for the 92nd Congress.

Subcommittee on Research and Technical Programs 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Subcommittee on Research and Technical Programs (20 ft.), Committee on Government Operations, provide information on Federal research and development programs; the use of social research in Federal domestic programs; cuts in Federal expenditures for research and development activities abroad; utilization of Federal laboratory resources; management of research equipment

procurement; management of Federal medical research on aging; Federal air pollution research and development activities; and the "brain drain" of developing countries, whose scientists, engineers, and physicians moved to the United States. Records relating to investigations of various labs and projects are also included (89 GO.5, 89 GO.20A, 89 GO.21, 89 GO.22, 89 GO.23, 89.GO.24). Vouchers and payroll records of the Subcommittee on Research and Technical Programs of the Committee on Government Operations can be found in records of the Committee on Government Operations for the 92nd Congress.

Special Subcommittee on Donable Property 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

Vouchers and payroll records of the Special Subcommittee on Donable Property of the Committee on Government Operations can be found in records of the Committee on Government Operations for the 92nd Congress.

Special Subcommittee on the Invasion of Privacy 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Special Subcommittee on the Invasion of Privacy, Committee on Government Operations, include information pertaining to computers, the activities of commercial credit bureaus, the National Data Bank Concept, and privacy concerns (89 GO.5 and 89 GO.32). Vouchers and payroll records of the Special Subcommittee on the Invasion of Privacy can be found in records of the Committee on Government Operations for the 92nd Congress.