

**Records of the Committee on Public Works
RG.233.89.PW
89th Congress**

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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

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Summary Information

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

Biographical/Historical note

The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 established the Public Works Committee by combining the jurisdiction of four standing committees--Public Buildings and Grounds, Rivers and Harbors, Roads, and Flood Control. The four original committees retained their separate identities but were reduced to subcommittees. The jurisdiction of the Committee on Public Works was as follows: (a) Flood control and improvement of rivers and harbors. (b) Measures relating to the Capitol Building and the Senate and House Office Buildings. (c) Measures relating to the construction or maintenance of roads and post roads, other than appropriations therefore; but it shall not be in order for any bill providing general legislation in relation to roads to contain any provision for any specific road, nor for any bill in relation to a specific road to embrace a provision in relation to any other specific road. (d) 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 Institute. (e) Measures relating to the purchase of sites and construction of post offices, customhouses, Federal courthouses, and Government buildings within the District of Columbia. (f) Oil and other pollution of navigable waters. (g) Public buildings and occupied or improved grounds of the United States generally. (h) Public reservations and parks within the District of Columbia, including Rock Creek Park and the Zoological Park. (i) Public works for the benefit of navigation, including bridges and dams (other than international bridges and dams), and (j) Water power.

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Committee on Public Works for the 88th Congress include minutes and petitions and memorials, bill files, and committee papers. The committee created a subcommittee for Watershed Development, 86th-90th Congresses (1959-68), and special subcommittees include the Federal-Aid Highway Program, 86th-90th Congresses; and ad hoc committees established on Montana Flood Damage, 88th Congress (1963-64); and on Appalachian Regional Development, 88th-90th Congresses.

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

Full Committee 1965-1967

Bill Files 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The bill files of the Committee on Public Works form the nucleus of the committee's records. For most Congresses the files are arranged by type of legislation--H.R., H.J. Res., H.Res., H. Con. Res., S., S.J. Res.--and thereunder numerically by docket number. Within each bill file are copies of bills and appropriate support correspondence. Individual files may also contain copies of bills as printed with Union Calendar numbers, reports, and manuscript or printed copies of transcripts of hearings. Bill files exist for such important public works legislation as the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 and the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (89 PW.1).

Calendars 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

While only one docket volume exists, docket information figures prominently in committee calendars of the Committee on Public Works. Final editions of the calendars are in the committee papers for all Congresses except the 83d (1953-1954), for which there is an interim calendar; the 84th (1955-1956); and the 89th (1965-1966). The calendars give docket numbers under the following groups: bills by type (H.R., H.J. Res., etc.); status of bills reported to the House by the committee; numerical docket listings; executive communications; and indexes by subjects and by names of Representatives.

The calendars also include complete listings of petitions and memorials, showing the date they were referred to the committee, by whom (most often the Speaker of the House), and the subject matter.

Committee Papers

As with petitions and memorials, a complete listing of executive communications can be found in committee calendars.

Committee Papers 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

Although the committee papers for any given Congress of the Committee on Public Works often include a separate section for the committee's publications (most of which are transcripts of hearings), none of these collections contain all of the publications shown for the committee in the publications checklist within the legislative calendars. Few exceptions of committee papers for the full committee consist of survey resolution dockets, executive communications, calendars, and copies of printed hearings.

Executive Communications 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

A majority of executive communications of the Committee on Public Works came from the Secretary of the Army and concern matters relating to navigation, beach erosion, or flood control. Others came from such persons as the Chairman of the National Park and Planning Commission, the Administrator of the General Services Administration, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Secretary of the Interior, and the President of the United States, who transmitted drafts of proposed legislation and annual reports, and supplied requested information. The executive communications themselves are arranged in numerical order.

Minutes 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

For the 87th-90th Congresses, the minutes of the Committee on Public Works greatly increase in quantity, since single-page sheets listing those present are affixed to transcripts of the meetings. Subcommittee minutes include those of: Subcommittee on Flood Control, Subcommittee on Roads,

Petitions and Memorials

Subcommittee on Rivers and Harbors, Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, Subcommittee on Watershed Development, Special Subcommittee to Study Civil Works, Special Subcommittee on Federal-Aid Highway Program, Special Subcommittee on Economic Development Programs, Special Subcommittee on Montana Flood Damage, the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Appalachian Regional Development, and the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Alaska Exposition (1967).

Petitions and Memorials 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials of the Committee on Public Works consist of 4 or 5 inches of documents per Congress, and have each been placed within separate envelopes on which basic descriptive information has been written. For most Congresses memorials (generally documents from state legislatures) and petitions have been grouped in separate sets of roughly comparable size, each arranged in chronological order.

Subcommittees 1965-1967

Scope and Contents note

The four original committees retained their separate identities but were reduced to subcommittees of the Committee on Public Works. In addition, the committee created subcommittees for Watershed Development; and Special Subcommittees were created for the following: Special Subcommittee on the Federal-Aid Highway Program; and the Special Subcommittee on Economic Development Programs. Ad Hoc Committees were established on Appalachian Regional Development; and on the 1967 Alaska Exposition.