

**Records of the Committee on
Merchant Marine and Fisheries
RG.233.90.MMF
90th 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 Merchant Marine and Fisheries
Date [inclusive]	1967-1969
Extent	Amount unknown
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries was established on December 21, 1887, to replace the Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning Interests. The House Rules defined its jurisdiction as those matters concerning the Merchant Marine. This included all matters relating to transportation by water, the Coast Guard, life-saving service, lighthouses, lightships, ocean derelicts, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Panama Canal, and fisheries. Legislation referred to the committee also include matters involving seamen (their assignments, wages, treatment, and health) and officers (their titles, conduct, and licensing); the naming, measuring, licensing, and registering of vessels; navigation and related laws; pleasure yachts; collisions at sea, as well as international arrangements to prevent them; coasting districts; maritime schools; and, taxes, fines, and penalties on vessels. The committee has also regulated shipping in the Philippines and Hawaii. The Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee created subcommittees to handle portions of its jurisdiction. In 1919 the committee was given jurisdiction over wireless telegraphy (radio), and in 1932 its name was changed to the Committee on Merchant Marine, Radio, and Fisheries. After a dispute with the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the jurisdiction over radio services was transferred to that committee in 1935 and the term "radio" was dropped from the name of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the jurisdiction of the committee was enlarged and more fully defined.

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

Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries for most Congresses contain bill files, executive communications, transcripts of executive session hearings, copies of printed hearings, minutes, and administrative files including vouchers.

Bill Files 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The bill files of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries comprise almost three-quarters of the records of this committee during the post-World War II years. They contain documentation on most of the legislation that passed through the committee. The list of bills and resolutions referred to the committee and published in the "Committee Calendar" can serve as an index to the bill files of this committee because, in most cases, there is a folder for each piece of legislation referred.

Committee Papers 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers for each Congress of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries contain the executive communications that were referred to the committee, minutes of committee and subcommittee meetings, copies of the legislative calendar, copies of printed hearings, and, in some cases, transcripts of executive session meetings. The committee papers also usually contain substantial records from the minority staff and several collections of subcommittee records.

Hearings

Hearings 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

Transcripts of open session and executive session meetings of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries are contained in the records of each Congress. Many of these transcripts were never published.

Minutes 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The minutes of full committee and subcommittee meetings of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries are filed together in chronological order in loose-leaf notebooks. They contain accounts of open and executive session meetings. In some cases the minutes also contain roll-call vote slips.

Petitions and Memorials 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

Separate petition and memorial files exist for most of this period for the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; but during the 88th through 90th Congresses (1963-1968), petitions and memorials are filed together with executive communications. In some cases, petitions and memorials relating to specific pieces of legislation are filed in the bill file for the legislation instead of in the petition and memorial series. The documents cover a wide range of subjects relating to the Merchant Marine.