

**Records of the Committee on
Interstate and Foreign Commerce
RG.233.96.IFC
96th Congress**

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Creator	Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
Title	Records of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce
Date [inclusive]	1979-1980
Extent	87.07 Linear feet (204 archival boxes, 2 record center cartons)
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. Though the name change was not due to a change in jurisdiction, the committee did experience some jurisdictional changes during the 1880s and 1890s.

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. In 1935 the House rule that defined committee jurisdictions finally dropped the phrase that referred matters relating to the Lifesaving Service and lighthouses to the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. That same year, however, the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce acquired jurisdiction over radio-related matters from the Merchant Marine and Fisheries 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; the Bureau of Standards and the standardization of weights and measures and the metric system.

Because of the pervasive influence of commercial activity in American life, it was perhaps inevitable that the jurisdiction of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee frequently overlapped with that of other committees. A committee print from 1974 stated that the committee's jurisdiction overlapped with the jurisdiction of over half of the House committees.

In 1975 the Committee's name changed to the Committee on Commerce and Health. This new name lasted only two weeks before the former name was restored. In 1981 the Committee was replaced by the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce document the work of the committee during the 96th Congress. The subcommittee files are minutes and the records of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, which are the bulk of the records for this congress from the committee. Subjects of note include auto safety and hazardous waste sites and cleanup.

Arrangement note

The files are separated by full committee and subcommittee records and arranged by series. The full committee series are bill files, official communications, hearing files, hearing and committee prints, legislative files, and minutes. Bill files are organized into disposed bills (bills referred to the committee that are never reported back to the Floor) and active bills and arranged chronologically. Official communications and hearing and committee prints are arranged chronologically. Subcommittee oversight and investigative files are arranged by subject.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Rule VII

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

Bill files 11.26 Linear feet (27 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Legislative calendar, committee activity reports, disposed bills (including applicable reports, public laws, etc), and active bills.

Hearings and committee prints 7.51 Linear feet (18 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Printed hearing transcripts and committee prints.

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.

Official communications 26.69 Linear feet (64 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Executive communications, petitions and memorials, presidential messages.

Legislative files (2 volumes)

Minutes

Scope and Contents note

Two volumes of docket books.

Minutes (2 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

Two volumes of full committee minutes.

Mark-up transcripts 0.42 Linear feet (1 archival box)**Scope and Contents note**

Full committee, subcommittee, and conference committee mark-up transcripts.

Subcommittees**Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations 38.36 Linear feet (92 archival boxes)****Scope and Contents note**

Files contain background files on Sharon Steel case, the development of a national securities market system, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health epidemiology report, oil pricing issues, railroad ratemaking, Rail Act of 1980, coal rate report and hearings of 1980, nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA) investigations of 1980, cost-benefit analyses investigations of 1979 (Arthur D. Little case study), Toxic Substances Control Act, Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Goodyear Atomic Division (Portsmouth, Ohio), bendectin, auto safety, Environmental Protection Agency/hazardous waste/Superfund sites, and other subjects investigated by the subcommittee.

Controlled Access Headings

Minutes

Subject(s)

- Automobiles--Safety measures
- Automobiles--Seat belts
- Goodyear Atomic Corporation
- Hazardous waste sites--New Jersey
- National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
- Sharon Steel Corporation

Minutes (2 volumes)

Scope and Contents note

Two volumes of subcommittee minutes.