How to Research Legislative History

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Yale University
October 9, 2020

Congressional Record
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

ISPS Policy-Related Skills Training
Session Objectives

• What are the key sources you should look for to compile a legislative history?
  – How can you find these sources at Yale and elsewhere?

• What kinds of questions might you ask?

• How can you organize your research and effectively present your findings?

• An example case:
  – Budget and Accounting Act [BAA] of 1921
    • Hypothesis: The statute relied on the assumption that the president would best represent the national interest in budgeting.

• Questions
Questions to Ask

• What did legislators think a bill was going to do?
• Why was a particular policy or institutional design chosen over other alternatives?
• Which legislators were crucial to supporting legislation?
• What compromises were made and how did they ultimately affect how law operated?
Questions to Ask: BAA of 1921

• What did legislators think a bill was going to do?
  – Reduce budget deficit

• Why was a particular policy or institutional design chosen over other alternatives?
  – Assumption president would focus on needs of nation as a whole

• Which legislators were crucial to supporting legislation?
  – Rep. James Good (R-IA) and Sen. Medill McCormick (R-IL), influenced by budget reformers

• What compromises were made and how did they ultimately affect how law operated?
  – President could propose budget, but Congress could still amend it
  – President’s Bureau of the Budget located in Treasury Department, but Budget Director reported directly to president
Overview of Sources

• Secondary
  – Books
  – Journal articles

• Primary
  – Public
    • Congressional Record / Congressional Globe*
      – Speeches / Debate
      – Votes on amendments to legislation
      – Final vote counts
    • Congressional Hearings*
      – Committees
      – Key legislators
      – Witnesses testifying
    • Government Reports
    • Bills / Laws
    • Presidential Administration Statements
    • Newspaper coverage
    • Memoirs
    • Statements by journalists, academics, social movements, etc.
  – Private
    • Legislators’ papers
    • Other government actors
    • Other reformers
Direction of Research

• Will present this example of legislative history linearly
  – 1) Ideas / proposals
  – 2) Legislation
  – 3) Implementation

• But your research is likely to be most effective going somewhat backwards
  – Start with final votes / floor debate
  – Figure out which legislators gave key speeches before those votes
  – Work backwards from there
Purpose of Secondary Sources

- What existing scholarship is there that covers the law/policy you are interested in?
  - What does the literature already say about why the law passed?
  - When does the literature say advocates of a particular reform began their efforts?

- Try to establish a timeline, which will help with figuring out when you need primary sources from
IDEAS / PROPOSALS
Reformers

• Who was pushing for policy change?
• What ideas for policy change were being talked about in political discourse?
• What reformers outside of Congress were in communication with legislators?
Reformers: BAA of 1921

Henry Lewis Stimson papers
Collection

Call Number: MS 465
Manuscripts and Archives Henry Lewis Stimson papers

Collection Overview Finding Aid View Container List

Scope and Contents
The papers consist of correspondence, letter books, speeches, articles, letters to the editor, statements prepared for presentation to Congress and substantial subject files with clippings, printed matter, reports, memoranda and photographs related to Henry Stimson’s various public offices. While the official records of Stimson’s service (as Secretary of War under President Taft, Secretary of State under Herbert Hoover and as Secretary...See more

Dates
1846-1966

Creator
- Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.
Reformers: BAA of 1921

Henry L. Stimson
(May 1913)

- **President**

  “the Executive by nature of Election represents nation at large.”

- **Congress**

  “Responsibility only to District whereas injury may be done to whole country.”

Reformers: BAA of 1921

- Henry Jones Ford
  - Lecture at Columbia University on budget problems
  - “By so much as [the president’s] power of initiative is abridged, the sovereignty of the people is impaired.”
Presidential Attention

• Did the president speak about a particular policy problem?
• Did the president propose any specific solutions?
Presidential Attention

The American Presidency Project

Advanced Search (case sensitive)

The Document Archive currently contains 136,529 Records

Tips on how to use advanced search

- All of these Terms
- Any of these Terms
- None of these Terms
- From Date
- To Date

Presidents
- Any -

Document Category
- Select option(s)

# per page
- 25

https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/advanced-search
President William Howard Taft

- Second annual message to Congress

- “When it is completed, the foundation will be laid for a businesslike national budget, and for such a just comparison of the economy and efficiency with which the several bureaus and divisions are conducted as will enable the President and the heads of Departments to detect waste, eliminate duplication, encourage the intelligent and effective civil servants whose efforts too often go unnoticed, and secure the public service at the lowest possible cost.”
President's Commission on Economy and Efficiency report, 1912

- Established by President William Howard Taft to study federal budget problems and recommend solutions

- Budget initiative: “To enable the President, as Chief Executive and representative of the people at large, to get before the country a definite proposal as to future action as well as a definite statement of fact pertaining to past accomplishment.”
LEGISLATION
Congressional Hearings

• What committees held hearings on proposed legislation?
  – Who testified as witnesses?
  – What kinds of questions were they asked?
  – Did witnesses largely agree on the proposed legislation?
  – What were sources of disagreement?

• Did the legislation change as a result of the hearings? If so, how?
Congressional Hearings

Congressional committee hearings contain the testimony of government officials and private individuals invited to appear before the committee to argue for or against passage of a bill.

- ProQuest Congressional (1824-present)
  To limit your search to hearings, select the Advanced Search option. From here, you can search by keyword, date, etc., as well as by witness name and/or witness affiliation.

- FDsys
  Selected hearings, primarily 105th Congress (1997)-present, with some earlier hearings back to 1985.

- To find hearings in print, search in Orbis. Using the Congressional committee as the "author" will often help locate these documents.

See this list of resources for audio and video of hearings.

https://guides.library.yale.edu/congress/hearings
Congressional Hearings

Advanced Search: Legislative & Executive Publications

Choose content types to search

- Search All Content Types
  - Hearings 1824-Present
  - CRS Reports 1916-Present
  - House and Senate Documents/Reports 1789-Present
  - Legislative Histories 1969-Present
  - Bills and Laws 1776-Present
  - Miscellaneous Publications 1789-Present
  - Vote Reports 1987-Present
  - Maps 1789-2007

- national budget system in Anywhere except full text
  - AND in Anywhere except full text

- Date is between January 01 1919 and December 31 1921

Search Clear form

Witness/Panelist

F. Marcus
### Congressional Hearings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Congress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start</td>
<td>MM/DD/YYYY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End</td>
<td>MM/DD/YYYY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Content Type**

- **Hearings**: 3
- **House and Senate Documents/Reports**: 15
- **Bills and Laws**: 31
- **Congressional Record**: 146
- **Executive Branch**: 6

**HEARINGS** (Published, temporary and unpublished hearings, including written and oral statements of witnesses, transcripts, reports, exhibits, correspondence and other materials)

1. **National Budget System**
   - **Hearing**: Hearings Published
   - **Date**: September 22, 1919
   - **Committee**: Committee on Budget. House Select
   - Download PDF (45MB)

   - **Hearing**: Hearings Published
   - **Date**: January 01, 1919
   - **Committee**: Committee on Budget. House Select
   - Contains submitted materials.
   - Download PDF (857KB)

3. **National Budget**
   - **Hearing**: Hearings Published
   - **Date**: December 15, 1919
   - **Committee**: Committee on Consideration of National Budget. Senate
   - Considers legislation to establish Bureau of Budget and authorize independent audit of Government accounts.
   - Download PDF (13MB)
NATIONAL BUDGET SYSTEM

HEARINGS
BEFORE
THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL BUDGET SYSTEM

SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS,
FIRST SESSION

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

JAMES W. GOOD, Iowa, Chairman.
PHILIP P. CAMPBELL, Kansas.
MARTIN B. MADDEN, Illinois.
WILLIS C. HAWLEY, Oregon.
HENRY W. TEMPLE, Pennsylvania.
GEORGE HOLDEN TINKHAM, Massachusetts.
FRED S. PURNELL, Indiana.

JOSEPH W. BYRNS, Tennessee.
CLAUDE KITCHIN, North Carolina.
JOHN N. GARNER, Texas.
EDWARD T. TAYLOR, Colorado.
EVERETTE B. HOWARD, Oklahoma.

MARCELLUS C. SHIELD, Clerk.
Congressional Hearings: BAA of 1921

- Former Chair of President’s Commission on Economy and Efficiency Frederick Cleveland

  “…the assumption that lies back of the suggestion that the Executive should be held responsible is this:... that the Executive is the one man that is elected by the people at large and represents the whole country, and therefore from the viewpoint of his vision must be countrywide... so that he must be in a position of coming to have some definite program or plan that is comprehensive...”
This question is of so broad a type that I want to call your attention to one other thing, which is an affirmative and not a negative reason. The Executive brings to bear on that question a viewpoint which he naturally gets and which the legislature can not, as now constituted, get, namely, the viewpoint of the Nation as a whole as against the view of an aggregate of disputants. Now, that is a very important advantage which our system of Government gives to the man who is elected by the electorate as a whole. You know—I take it from the State again—the governor will do lots of things and can do lots of things to defy selfish interests which a member of the assembly can not do, simply because the governor is a bigger man and represents a bigger electorate— I mean a bigger man in that sense, representing a bigger district, and a small group of selfish interests can not pull him down as easily.

Taking my experience here, for instance, I can not conceive, if we had had an executive budget prepared by the Executive throughout our national history, I can not conceive, for instance, of our Army being quartered as I found it, in 48 separate posts, at an expense to the Treasury which was not only unnecessary but was terrifically subservive of Army efficiency, of about $6,000,000 a year. I can not conceive, if the budget had been submitted by the Executive, of our having a number of navy yards that we do not dock our battleships. I can not conceive of the chairman of a committee on naval affairs— I can name him, but I will not—when he was asked, “Is it not a fact that the navy yard in your district will not accommodate our latest battleship?” answering, “That is true, and that is the reason I have always been in favor of small ships.” [Laughter.]

Mr. Tinkham. That is a new one.

Mr. Stimson. Now, I mean if the budget had been prepared by the Executive from that viewpoint I do not think you would have had quite that tendency to improve our great waterways, not according to the lines of true commerce of the country but according to the lines of “How much money are you going to spend in each district?” I mean that was a thing that came to me constantly. Almost the last paper that I drew as Secretary of War was a memorandum based on a report of the Chief of Engineers that we did not have a single waterway that was built in the same way in which we would have built a trunk line railway, for instance, with a view to the general commerce of the country rather than to the individual needs of a given district. I know I am treading on dangerous ground, but—

Mr. Gooch. We have appropriated about $900,000,000 for waterways. So far as I have been able to find out we have never appropriated a dollar that was not approved by the Board of Engineers and the Secretary of War and estimated for by the Engineers.

Mr. Stimson. I will tell you why. I know why. That was one of my troubles. When I was Secretary of War I found this situation, and I found that the reports of the Chief of Engineers which came to me were not “Is this an improvement which should be made in view of our particular funds this year—our particular budget this year—and in view of all the improvements in the United States taken at the same time?” but simply and solely “Is this an improvement of a waterway which should be made?” And the Chief of Engineers
Congressional Record

• Who introduced legislation?

• Were there any amendments voted on? Who pushed those?

• Who gave speeches before final floor votes?
  – What did they say as the final justification for voting for / against a piece of legislation?

• What was the final vote tally?
  – For vote total by party:
    • Newspapers
    • Voteview.com
Vote and Member Search

Enter a search term (vote text, member names, parties, or advanced search.)

Search tip: Look for historic figures: Davy Crockett

107,981 votes found.

116th Congress > House > Vote 917 on 2020-10-02

Bill number: HRES1154
Vote: 371-18 (Passed)
Question: On Agreeing to the Resolution
Finding the Congressional Record

- **ProQuest Congressional**
  - Congressional Record Bound Edition & Predecessors, 1789-present
  - Congressional Record Daily Edition, 1985-present
  - [more...](https://guides.library.yale.edu/congress/cr)

- **Congressional Record - HeinOnline (Yale subscription database)**
  - Congressional Record (bound), 1873-2010
  - Congressional Record (daily), 1980-present
  - includes the Congressional Record's predecessors

- **Congressional Record - FDsys**
  - Congressional Record (daily), 1994-present. Use this link to browse the Congressional Record by date; to search by keyword, try an [advanced search in FDsys](https://guides.library.yale.edu/congress/cr).

- Congressional Record in print
  - The Congressional Record and its predecessors (1789-1993) are available in print in the Marx Science and Social Science Library.

Before the Congressional Record...

- **Annals of Congress (The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States)**
  - 1789-1824; available through the American Memory Project's "Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation."

The *Congressional Record* began publication in 1873. Prior to that, Congressional debates were published in *The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States* (also known as the *Annals of Congress, 1789-1824*), *The Register of Debates in Congress* (1824-1837), and *The Congressional Globe* (1833-1873).

The *Congressional Record*’s predecessors are not identical to the *Record*; most include summaries, not verbatim transcripts of debates, and some volumes (like the *Annals*) were not published contemporaneously, but compiled later from sources like newspaper accounts.

In addition to the sources below, the *Congressional Record*’s predecessors can also be found in ProQuest Congressional and HeinOnline, two of Yale’s subscription databases. See "Finding the Congressional Record" above for more information.

- **Register of Debates in Congress**
  - 1824-1837; available through the American Memory Project's "Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation."

- **Congressional Globe**
  - 1833-1873; available through the American Memory Project's "Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation."
Congressional Record

• If you’re looking for a law 1989 or after, can also search here:

• [https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/browse-by-date](https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/browse-by-date)
Rep. James Good (R-IA), House bill sponsor — “It assumed that the President, being the only official of the United States that is elected by all the people, and the only official who is designated by the Constitution to give Congress, from time to time, information on the state of the Union, the President must lay out a work program for the Government, and the appropriations that would necessarily follow would only be to supply the money to do the work in accordance with that work program.”
Newspapers

• What was the reaction to the bill’s passage?
• How did contemporary accounts of the legislation describe…?
  – The significance of the legislation
  – The coalitions for and against
  – The compromises made in the final law
Newspapers

ENGL 114/ENGL 115 A Research Guide: Find Newspapers

Why Use Newspapers?

Newspapers (and magazines) provide both first-hand accounts and interpretations of events. Therefore, depending on how you use a newspaper, it can either be a primary source or a secondary source.

This page will help guide you through finding current newspapers and historical newspapers.

Pro-tip: Though you may be familiar with visiting websites for newspaper content (www.nytimes.com), accessing the library’s subscription to a newspaper will often require accessing through a database. Going through a database will ensure you do not have to pay.

You DO have access to free newspaper subscriptions as a current Yale student, including the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

- Access the New York Times
- Access the Wall Street Journal

Find Current & Historical Newspapers

Try these database resources to find newspaper articles from current and historic newspapers:

- ProQuest News & Newspapers
  Access to both historical and current newspaper content for various geographic regions and ethnic groups.

- Alt-Press Watch
  A full-text of newspapers, magazines, and journals of the alternative and independent press including The Village Voice, The Advocate (Los Angeles), and the Chicago Reader.

- Gender Watch
  Full-text publications that focus on the impact of gender across a broad spectrum of subject areas.

- ProQuest National Newspapers

- https://guides.library.yale.edu/c.php?g=295794&p=5438820
Advanced Search

"national budget system"

AND

Publication date: Specific date range...

Start

April 1 1921

End

May 31 1921
Newspapers

38 results

1. CONFUSION MARKS C. C. REFERENDUM ON TAXES: Warm Debate At Atlantic City Convention Over Sales And Luxury Tariffs CAREFUL TRADE LAWS URGED Cash Bonus For Veterans Opposed And National Budget System Advocated
   The Sun (1837-1994); Baltimore, Md. [Baltimore, Md] 30 Apr 1921: 2.
   Abstract/Details Full text - PDF (49 KB)
   Full Text
   Show Abstract

2. BUDGET PLAN IS AGAIN PROPOSED
   Special to The Christian Science Monitor from its Washington News Office.
   ...of Columbia —The Republican bill for a national budget system, carrying the same clause that caused President Woodrow Wilson to vete it...
   Abstract/Details Full text - PDF (17 KB)
   Full Text
   Show Abstract

3. SENATE PASSES M'COMICK BILL FOR U. S. BUDGET
   A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.
   Chicago Daily Tribune (1872-1922); Chicago, Ill. [Chicago, ill] 27 Apr 1921: 12.
   ...bill establishing a national budget system to carry out President Harding's...
   Abstract/Details Full text - PDF (31 KB)
   Full Text
   Show Abstract

4. Budget Bill Reported By House Committee
   ...the Good bill, providing a national budget system and an independent audit of...

HOUSE WILL ACCEPT TODAY

President to Appoint Director and Assistant Director—Controller General to Serve 15 Years.

BUDGET BILL AGREED ON BY CONGRESS CONFEREES: Measure, In Present Shape, Said To Be In Accord With Views Of President.

PASSAGE EXPECTED SHORTLY

Points Of Variance Smoothed Out, Final Approval Left, As At Present, With Congress.

[From The Sun Bureau.]

WASHINGTON, May 23.—Agreement on the Federal budget was reached today by Senate and House conferees, and final Congressional action is expected not later than Thursday or Friday. President Harding, it is stated, will be satisfied with the bill as put through Congress and will sign it as soon as it is laid before him.

The main point of difference between the two bills was as to the tenure of the Comptroller-General, who will be the general accounting officer under the budget system. The House bill gave this official a life tenure, subject to removal by resolution of Congress, while the Senate bill gave him a term of seven years. The agreement reached, was that the official should have a term of 15 years and be ineligible for reappointment. Details as to his removal...
Private Papers of Legislators

• Who were key actors in pushing or opposing legislation?
  – Especially bill sponsors

• Did their private statements match up with their public statements?
Private Papers of Legislators

- [https://bioguideretro.congress.gov](https://bioguideretro.congress.gov)
McCORMICK, Joseph Medill (1877-1925)

Biography

Research Collections

**Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**
Springfield, IL
*Papers*: Correspondence in Samuel Alschuler papers, 1885-1969; and Lawrence Yates Sherman papers, 1880-1936.

**Herbert Hoover Library**
West Branch, IA
*Papers*: 1921-1925. 2 folders.

**Library of Congress**
Manuscript Division
Washington, DC
*Papers*: In Hanna-McCormick family papers, 1792-1951 (bulk 1918-1931). 52.8 linear feet. Includes senatorial papers, chiefly constituent mail, and correspondence relating to state and national politics and activities in the Senate. Finding aid.

**New-York Historical Society**
New York, NY
“Advocates of a budgetary system for the United States are agreed on the point that the President... should be made responsible to the people for the preparation of the budget estimates and for the financial program embodied therein. It is also generally agreed that the President now has no machinery or organization through which to do the work of preparing a budget and..."

SIXTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS. 3 sess. I. Chs. 17, 18. 1921.

have been rendered homeless or are in needy circumstances as the result of the recent flood due to the overflow of the Arkansas River and its tributaries, and in executing this joint resolution, the Secretary of War is directed so far as possible to cooperate with the authorities of the State of Colorado, as the mayors of such cities on the Arkansas River or its tributaries as may have sustained damages.

Approved, June 8, 1921.

CHAP. 18.—An Act To provide a national budget system and an independent audit of Government accounts, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I.—DEFINITIONS.

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the “Budget and Accounting Act, 1921.”

Sec. 2. When used in this Act—

The terms “department and establishment” and “department or establishment” mean any executive department, independent commission, board, bureau, office, agency, or other establishment of the Government, including the municipal government of the District of Columbia, but do not include the Legislative Branch of the Government or the Supreme Court of the United States;

The term “the Budget” means the Budget required by section 201 to be transmitted to Congress;

The term “Bureau” means the Bureau of the Budget;

The term “Director” means the Director of the Bureau of the Budget; and

The term “Assistant Director” means the Assistant Director of the Bureau of the Budget.

TITLE II.—THE BUDGET.

Sec. 201. The President shall transmit to Congress on the first day of each regular session, the Budget, which shall set forth in summary and in detail:

(a) Estimates of the expenditures and appropriations necessary in his judgment for the support of the Government for the ensuing fiscal year, except that the estimates for such year for the Legislative Branch of the Government and the Supreme Court of the United States shall be transmitted to the President on or before October 15th of each year, and shall be included by him in the Budget without revision;

(b) His estimates of the receipts of the Government during the ensuing fiscal year, under (1) laws existing at the time the Budget is transmitted and also (2) under the revenue proposals, if any, contained in the Budget;

(c) The expenditures and receipts of the Government during the last completed fiscal year;

(d) Estimates of the expenditures and receipts of the Government during the fiscal year in progress:

(1) The amount of annual, permanent, or other appropriations, including balances of appropriations for prior fiscal years, available for expenditure during the fiscal year in progress, as of November 1 of each year;

(2) Balanced statements of (1) the condition of the Treasury at the end of the last completed fiscal year, (2) the estimated condition of the Treasury at the end of the fiscal year in progress, and (3)
Legislative History

• An alternative search method: the legislative history of the law

• Pros:
  – Identifies the legislation, key days of congressional debate, key hearings

• Cons:
  – If legislation has been considered over multiple sessions of Congress, not reflected in results
Legislative History

U.S. Federal Government - Legislative Information: Legislative History

How to compile a legislative history

- Federal Legislative History guide (Law Library of Congress)
  A legislative history traces the chronology of the legislation and provides citations to the various documents relevant to the bill.
- Federal Legislative History (Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington)

Published legislative histories

Published legislative histories may be available from:

- ProQuest Legislative Insight (Yale subscription database)
- ProQuest Congressional (Yale subscription database)
- Orbis (Yale Library catalog) or MORRIS (Yale Law Library catalog). Keyword search: "legislative history" and keyword(s) related to the law.
- Legislative Histories of Selected U.S. Laws on the Internet

Not every enacted law has a published legislative history. You may need to compile one yourself, using the resources highlighted in this guide.

See also: Yale Law Library’s Legislative History guide; some of the sources listed will be available to Yale Law School affiliates only. Contact Yale University Library’s government documents librarian to find out which sources are available to you.

- https://guides.library.yale.edu/congress/leghistory
Legislative History

Quick Search

Publication Types:
- Legislative History

Or narrow your search to the following publication type(s)
- Bill
- Public Law
- Report
- Committee Print
- Document
- Hearings
- CRS and Misc.
- Publications
- Presidential Signing Statement

Refine result set of 16 records by a full text search:

"budget and accounting act"

Sort results by:
- Relevance

16 Results

You may perform group operations by selecting checkboxes below:

Select all this page  Clear all

1. **Budget and Accounting Act, 1921**
   - Publication Type: Legislative History
   - ID: PL67-13
   - Date: June 10, 1921
   - 67th Congress, 1st Session (1921)

2. **Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950**
   - Publication Type: Legislative History
   - ID: PL81-784
   - Date: Sept. 12, 1950
   - 81st Congress, 2nd Session (1950)
Budget and Accounting Act, 1921

Publication Type: Legislative History

NOTE: Government organization and procedures

DIGITAL-PDF ID: PL67-13
PUBLIC LAW PDF ID: PL67-13FT
DATE: June 10, 1921
ENACTED-BILL: 67 S. 1084
STATUTE AT LARGE: 42 Stat. 20, Chap. 18
CONG-SESS: 67-1
DURABLE URL: https://congressional.proquest.com/legisinsight?id=PL67-13&type=LEG_HIST&accountid=15172

SUMMARY:

An Act To provide a national budget system and an independent audit of Government accounts, and for other purposes.
Legislative History

HEARINGS:

67th Congress

HEARING-ID: HRG-1921-ETD-0001
TITLE: Accounting Offices, Treasury Department. [Part 1]
DATE: June 8, 1921 June 13, 1921 June 15, 1921
DIGITAL-PDF: HRG-1921-ETD-0001
HEARING-TYPE: Published
COMMITTEE: Committee on Expenditures in Treasury Department. House
LENGTH: 36 pp.
SUDOC: Y4.Ex7/9:Ac2/1-1
Publication Detail

HEARING-ID: HRG-1921-ETD-0002
TITLE: Accounting Offices, Treasury Department. Part 2
DATE: June 16, 1921 June 20-21, 1921
DIGITAL-PDF: HRG-1921-ETD-0002
HEARING-TYPE: Published
COMMITTEE: Committee on Expenditures in Treasury Department. House
LENGTH: 84 pp.
Publication Detail

HEARING-ID: HRG-1921-ETD-0003
TITLE: Accounting Offices, Treasury Department. Part 3
DATE: June 24, 1921 June 27, 1921
DIGITAL-PDF: HRG-1921-ETD-0003
HEARING-TYPE: Published
COMMITTEE: Committee on Expenditures in Treasury Department. House
LENGTH: 38 pp.
SUDOC: Y4.Ex7/9:Ac2/1-3
Publication Detail

DOCUMENTS:

67th Congress

SERIAL-SET-ID: 7932 S.doc.15
TITLE: Conference Report on the Bill (S. 1084) "To Provide a National Budget System and an Independent Audit of Government Accounts, and for Other Purposes."
DOCUMENT-DATE: May 20, 1921
COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole Senate. Senate.
DOC-NO: S.doc.15
SERIAL-VOLUME: 7932
DIGITAL-PDF: 7932 S.doc.15
LENGTH: 9 pp.
NOTE: Conference Report
Publication Detail

BILLS:

67 S. 1084 Budget and Accounting Act, 1921 (Enacted)
67 S. 1084 - Reported in Senate Apr. 25, 1921
67 S. 1084 - Introduced in Senate Apr. 25, 1921
67 S. 1084 - Ordered to be Printed Senate May 9, 1921

67 H.R. 30 (Companion)
67 H.R. 30 - Introduced in House Apr. 11, 1921
67 H.R. 30 - Ordered to be printed as amended/Read and ordered to be printed Apr. 25, 1921

67 H.Res. 74 (Related)
67 H.Res. 74 - Introduced in House Apr. 29, 1921

REPORTS:

67th Congress

SERIAL-SET-ID: 7920 H.rp.14
TITLE: National Budget System
DOCUMENT-DATE: Apr. 25, 1921
COMMITTEE: Select Committee on the Budget. House
DOC-NO: H.rp.14
SERIAL-VOLUME: 7920
DIGITAL-PDF: 7920 H.rp.14
LENGTH: 8 pp.
Publication Detail

SERIAL-SET-ID: 7923 H.rp.39
TITLE: National Budget System
DOCUMENT-DATE: May 3, 1921
COMMITTEE: Committee on Rules. House
DOC-NO: H.rp.39
SERIAL-VOLUME: 7923
DIGITAL-PDF: 7923 H.rp.39
LENGTH: 1 pp.
NOTE: House rules and procedure
Publication Detail

SERIAL-SET-ID: 7920 H.rp.96
TITLE: National Budget System
DOCUMENT-DATE: May 25, 1921
COMMITTEE: Committee of Conference. House
DOC-NO: H.rp.96
SERIAL-VOLUME: 7920
DIGITAL-PDF: 7920 H.rp.96
LENGTH: 11 pp.
Publication Detail
IMPLEMENTATION
President & Executive Branch Officials

• How did the president who signed the legislation talk about its significance?
• How did the president and executive branch officials work on implementing the legislation?
• Were any new executive branch agencies or officials established?
  – How did they view their role?
President: BAA of 1921

- President Warren Harding
  - “In these urgent economies we shall be immensely assisted by the budget system for which you made provision in the extraordinary session. The first budget is before you. Its preparation is a signal achievement, and the perfection of the system, a thing impossible in the few months available for its initial trial, will mark its enactment as the beginning of the greatest reformation in governmental practices since the beginning of the Republic.”
Executive Branch Officials: BAA of 1921

The First Year of the Budget of the United States

By CHARLES G. DAWES
Former Director of Budget of the United States, President, Central Trust Company, Chicago.

HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS
NEW YORK AND LONDON, MCMXXIII

• Budget Director Charles Dawes
  – “The decision to form a new tentative budget for the departments to work by this year marks the passing (and is intended to do so) of the old system.”
  – “Nothing should be allowed to withdraw the attention of the public from the duty and powers of the President…”
Presenting Your Research

• How to organize information, in a presentation or in writing:
  – Chronologically
    • Ideas / Proposals
    • Legislation
    • Implementation
  – By different parts of the legislation you are following
    • BAA of 1921
      – Presidential budget agenda setting
      – Bureau of the Budget

• Presenting primary source findings
  – Provide an image, but highlight relevant info
Thanks!

- Questions?

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