IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 1953

Mr. McClellan introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A BILL

To amend the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 to provide for more effective evaluation of the fiscal requirements of the executive agencies of the Government of the United States.

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

That section 138 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

"Sec. 138. (a) There is hereby created a joint service committee, to be known as the Joint Committee on the Budget (hereinafter in this section called the 'joint committee') and to be composed of fourteen members as follows:

"(1) Seven Members who are members of the Com-

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mittee on Appropriations of the Senate, four from the ma-
ajority party and three from the minority party, to be chosen
by such committee; and

“(2) Seven Members who are members of the Com-
mittee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives,
four from the majority party and three from the minority
party, to be chosen by such committee.

“(b) No person shall continue to serve as a member
of the joint committee after he has ceased to be a member
of the committee from which he was chosen, except that
the members chosen by the Committee on Appropriations
of the House of Representatives who have been reelected to
the House of Representatives may continue to serve as
members of the joint committee notwithstanding the expira-
tion of the Congress. A vacancy in the joint committee
shall not affect the power of the remaining members to
execute the functions of the joint committee, and shall be
filled in the same manner as the original selection, except
that (1) in case of a vacancy during an adjournment or
recess of Congress for a period of more than two weeks, the
members of the joint committee who are members of the
committee entitled to fill such vacancy may designate a
member of such committee to serve until his successor is
chosen by such committee, and (2) in the case of a vacancy
after the expiration of a Congress which would be filled
from the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the members of such committee who are continuing to serve as members of the joint committee, may designate a person who, immediately prior to such expiration, was a member of such committee and who is reelected to the House of Representatives, to serve until his successor is chosen by such committee.

"(c) The joint committee shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its members at the first regular meeting of each session: Provided, however, That during even years the chairman shall be selected from among the members who are Members of the House of Representatives and the vice chairman shall be selected from among the members who are Members of the Senate, and during odd years the chairman shall be selected from among the members who are Members of the Senate and the vice chairman shall be selected from among the members who are Members of the House of Representatives.

"(d) A majority of the Members of each House who are members of the joint committee shall together constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number, as determined by the joint committee, may constitute a subcommittee and be authorized to conduct hearings and make investigations. Any member of a subcommittee so designated shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of any hearing or
investigation, but the concurrence of a majority of the members of such subcommittee shall be necessary before any report or findings may be submitted to the joint committee.

"(e) It shall be the duty of the joint committee—

"(1) (A) to inform itself on all matters relating to the annual budget of the agencies of the United States Government, including analytical, investigative, audit, and other reports on Federal operations prepared by the General Accounting Office pursuant to section 312 of the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921, the Government Corporation Control Act, and section 206 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and by other Federal agencies; (B) to provide the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate with such information on items contained in such budget, and the justifications submitted in support thereof, as may be necessary to enable said committees to give adequate consideration thereto; (C) to consider the President's messages on the state of the Union and the Economic Report, to consider all information relating to estimated revenues, including revenue estimates of the Department of the Treasury and the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation, to consider essential programs, and to consider changing economic conditions; and (D) to report to the Appro-
priasions Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate its findings with respect to budget estimates and revisions in appropriations required to hold expenditures to the minimum consistent with the requirements of Government operations and national security;

"(2) to recommend to the appropriate standing committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate such changes in existing laws as may effect greater efficiency and economy in government;

"(3) to make such reports and recommendations to any standing committee of either House of Congress or any subcommittee thereof on matters within the jurisdiction of such standing committee relating to deviations from basic legislative authorization, or to appropriations approved by Congress which are not consistent with such basic legislative authorization, or to cut-backs in previously authorized programs which require appropriations, as may be deemed necessary or advisable by the joint committee, or as may be requested by any standing committee of either House of Congress or by any subcommittee thereof;

"(4) to report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at the beginning of each regular session of the Congress the
total estimated costs of all programs and projects au-
authorized by the Congress, together with estimated costs
of such programs and projects during the fiscal year
under way, the ensuing fiscal year, and subsequent fiscal
years, and to make such interim reports as may be
deemed advisable.

"(f) The joint committee, or any subcommittee thereof,
shall have power to hold hearings and to sit and act any-
where within or without the District of Columbia whether
the Congress is in session or has adjourned or is in recess;
to require by subpena or otherwise the attendance of wit-
nesses and the production of books, papers, and documents;
to administer oaths; to take testimony; to have printing and
binding done; and to make such expenditures as it deems
necessary to carry out its functions within the amount appro-
priated therefor. Subpenas shall be issued under the signa-
ture of the chairman or vice chairman of the committee and
shall be served by any person designated by them. The pro-
visions of sections 102 to 104, inclusive, of the Revised Stat-
utes (U. S. C., title 2, secs. 192–194) shall apply in the case
of any failure of any witness to comply with any subpena or
to testify when summoned under authority of this section.

"(g) The joint committee shall have a staff director, an
associate staff director, and such other professional, technical,
clerical, and other employees, temporary or permanent, as
may be necessary to carry out the duties of the joint com-
mittee. Such employees shall be employed without regard
to the civil-service laws, and their compensation shall be
fixed without regard to the Classification Act of 1949, as
amended. The staff director shall be appointed by and
responsible to the members of the party of which the chair-
man of the joint committee is a member, and the associate
staff director shall be appointed by and responsible to the
members of the opposition party. No person shall be em-
ployed by the joint committee unless the members appointing
him have favorably considered the data with respect to him
submitted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation after a
thorough investigation of his loyalty and security.

(h) The joint committee shall make available mem-
bers of its staff to assist the staffs of the Committees on
Appropriations of the House of Representatives and of the
Senate and the several subcommittees thereof during the
periods when appropriation bills are pending.

(i) Professional and technical employees of the joint
committee, upon the written authority of the chairman or
vice chairman, shall have the right to examine the fiscal
books, documents, papers, and reports of any agency of the
United States Government within or without the District
of Columbia, and data related to proposed appropriations
incorporated in the annual budget transmitted by the
President.

"(j) Qualified members of the staff of the Bureau of
the Budget shall, at the request of the Committee on Ap-
propriations of the House of Representatives or the Senate,
or any subcommittee thereof, be assigned to attend executive
sessions of the subcommittees of the Appropriations Com-
mittees and to explain the content and basis of proposed
appropriations.

"(k) When used in this section, the term 'agency' means
any executive department, commission, council, independent
establishment, Government corporation, board, bureau, divi-
sion, service, office, officer, authority, administration, or other
establishment, in the executive branch of the Government.
Such term includes the Comptroller General of the United
States and the General Accounting Office, and includes any
and all parts of the municipal government of the District of
Columbia except the courts thereof.

"(l) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated
such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of
this section. Appropriations for the expenses of the joint
committee shall be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate
upon vouchers signed by the chairman or vice chairman."

Sec. 2. Effective at the beginning of the first regular
session of the Eighty-third Congress, section 133 of the
Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(g) (1) All bills and joint resolutions authorizing appropriations reported from committees of the Senate or the House of Representatives shall be accompanied by reports in writing, which shall be printed; and there shall be included in each such report or in an accompanying document an estimate from the department or other agency of the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of the Government primarily concerned of the probable cost of carrying out the legislation proposed in such bill or resolution over the first five-year period of its operation or over the period of its operation if such legislation will be effective for less than five years.

"(2) Estimates received from departments or agencies under this subsection may be submitted by the committees to the Bureau of the Budget for review, and such reviews, when practicable, shall be included in the reports or accompanying documents before said bills and joint resolutions are reported.

"(3) The Appropriations Committees of both Houses shall maintain compilations of all such estimates, and semi-annually shall print those compilations (together with any comment of the Bureau of the Budget) for the information of the Congress."
Sec. 3. Section 139 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(e) The Joint Committee on the Budget is authorized to recommend that joint hearings be held by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and of subcommittees thereof; but such joint hearings shall not affect the power of the respective committees, and of subcommittees thereof, to conduct separate additional committee hearings, and shall not affect the independence of committee deliberations and decision. The chairman of each such joint hearing shall be the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, or of the appropriate subcommittee thereof, of the House in which the bill is pending at the time of the hearing, and the vice chairman shall be the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the other House, or of the appropriate subcommittee thereof."
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