

Mr. Winegrad did attend, there were no less than 14 empty chairs in the room at all times.

Mr. Sheftel made a point of stressing to Mr. Winegrad on the phone that "no policy was being considered" and asked: "What is your interest?" and "How did you know of the meeting?"

However, the Budget Bureau's assistant director for statistical policy, Julius Shishkin, says that under recently adopted policies there will be plenty of seats for all interested parties at advisory committee meetings and that "any American—including Rap Brown" will be welcome. (Shishkin later said use of this quote, by singling out one controversial individual, inaccurately reflected his attitude.)

Revision of the Budget Bureau advisory committee system was suggested last year by Senator Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.). His bill (S. 3067) would require consumer, labor, and small business representation on the committees and "timely, conspicuous public notice" of their meetings. In March Senator Metcalf told the House Government Operations Special Studies Subcommittee that the public interest might best be served by abolition of the committees.

The Budget Bureau opposes the Metcalf bill. Discomfited by the attention given its advisory committees, the Budget Bureau now emphasizes "the need for agency consultations with user and other interested groups" prior to submittal of agency requests to the Bureau. The disadvantage to the public in that approach is the same as the one it has with the Budget Bureau committees—"user and other interested groups" do not have the entree with agencies that industries have. Edison Electric Institute (EEI), trade association of the investor-owned electric utilities, quietly planned a meeting in March of this year with the FPC staff. The EEI wanted to discuss, privately, the plant pollution control data reports, which had interested the National Wildlife Federation last winter. Only after congressional and press comment on the closed nature of the planned meeting with industry did the FPC invite the outsiders who had sat in on last winter's discussion.

The Budget Bureau has specifically refused to include on its advisory committees representatives of the Consumer Federation of America. Instead, the Bureau has invited Virginia Knauer, special assistant to the President for consumer affairs, to send staff members to some advisory committee meetings. Mrs. Knauer's small staff has neither the expertise nor the zeal to offset the rep-

resentatives of large industries and their trade associations.

On 9 April, President Nixon announced still another committee through which businessmen can "communicate regularly with the President, the Council on Environmental Quality, and other government officials and private organizations which are working to improve the quality of the environment." The new committee, the National Industrial Pollution Control Council, is composed of board chairmen or presidents of major oil, automobile, electric utility, mining, timber, coal, airline, and manufacturing companies plus presidents of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the National Industrial Conference Board. (The Administration recently contracted with the National Industrial Conference Board to make a selective study—electric utilities are not to be

included—of industrial pollution costs.)

The President's choice for chairman of the council is Bert Cross, board chairman of Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing. His company still has not complied with a 1966 state order in Wisconsin to stop discharging sulfurous waste into municipal sewers.

The Presidential council headed by Cross is composed exclusively of polluters. Informed ecologists, old-fashioned conservationists, vocal students, or silent majorities are not represented, nor do they have separate advisory councils. They are excluded, at the Presidential and the Budget Bureau levels. They can get their information from industries' anti-pollution advertisements. Meanwhile, inside the White House and the red brick executive office building of the Bureau of the Budget, the rabbits guard the wilting lettuce.

—VIC REINEMER

The Budget Director Responds . . .

We appreciate the generous offer to reply to your article on the Bureau of the Budget, but there is so much half-truth carefully interwoven through the article that you leave us with almost no rebuttal except to say the article is unfair and misleading. Furthermore, it is in large part ancient and not very accurate history.

First, here is the situation as it exists today. Meetings with committees and panel of the Advisory Council on Federal Reports are open to all interested parties, without exception. Anyone who wishes to receive advance notice of these meetings may simply request that his name be placed on our mailing list. Write to Office of Statistical Policy, Bureau of the Budget, Federal Office Building No. 7, Washington, D.C. 20503.

The important point your article misses, I feel, is that it is only in the last year or two that the Bureau has been receiving for review an increasing number of forms and reporting requirements involving complex and controversial socioeconomic issues, such as consumer protection, pollution, civil rights, equal employment opportunity, and so forth. We were responsive to the need for broadening consultation with groups wishing to present their views.

The Advisory Council on Federal Reports provides a channel through which various segments of the business community advise and consult with the Budget Bureau on reporting problems attendant to requests of government agencies for information from business.

You make the point that small business has not been represented. The National Small Business Association has been a member of the Council for the last 10 or 15 years. Furthermore, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has been a full-fledged member since the inception of the Advisory Council, and the majority of the Chamber's membership is comprised of small business.

The Bureau, now reorganized as the Office of Management and Budget, is composed of dedicated public servants with a long tradition of dealing fairly with all who are claimants on the national resources. As for the annual banquets, Budget directors and some of their aides have attended them, as did President Truman and President Johnson. To suggest an official of the Bureau could be corrupted by a meal is surely beneath the dignity of so fine a publication as *Science*.—ROBERT P. MAYO, *director, Bureau of the Budget*.