

(1949?)

The Internal Effects of Loss of Power and Goals on a Federal Agency

The Situation: The Minneapolis Branch of the Federal Office of Price Control was stripped of most of its powers and functions as a result of decontrol legislation in 1946. Since then, it has been operating primarily in the area of rent control with no authority over commodity prices and with its rent control functions circumscribed to a large extent.

The Results: The initial post-war public reactions against controls, coupled with the loss of legal powers and functions, resulted in a considerable loss of morale among agency personnel. Many left the government service, others remained, and some new personnel was recruited.

The Questions: From a study of the new and old personnel, we may answer these questions: What types of personality leave and what types of personality remain in public service following an organizational crisis? Are those who left more or less desirable as governmental employees than those who remain? Of those who remain, has their efficiency risen or declined since the crisis? Has the decline of the agency any results on agency relations with the public?

The Method: By use of questionnaires, personal interviews and study of personnel records, we hope to obtain enough information on past and present employees to answer our questions.

General Role of Study: Few studies exist concerning the decline of public agencies. Such a study will be of use to civil service personnel officers, political scientists interested in the kinds of persons who choose public rather than private employment even under adverse circumstances, and to citizens concerned with the efficient administration of public affairs.

Duration and Cost of Study: Given the delays in working with many individuals and the time at the disposal of the writer, one year would be the projected time in which to make the study. Estimated cost would be: one half-time graduate research assistant at \$900.00 for the school year and \$200.00 for necessary mimeographing, typing of interviews and reports and miscellaneous including postage. A total of \$1,100.00 is requested therefore.