

Mr. WATKINS	Public Lands Public Works
Mr. WHERRY	Appropriations Rules and Administration
Mr. WHITE	Interstate and Foreign Commerce (Chairman) Foreign Relations
Mr. WILEY	Judiciary (Chairman) Foreign Relations
Mr. WILLIAMS	Civil Service Public Works
Mr. WILSON	Agriculture and Forestry Armed Services
Mr. YOUNG	Agriculture and Forestry Appropriations

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EXHIBIT "C"

REMARKS OF EDWARD V. ROBERTSON, JANUARY 2, 1947,
BEFORE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Mr. Chairman:

Rule No. IV of the Republican Conference Rules states that, and I quote:

"A Committee on Committees shall be appointed at the beginning of each Congress to prepare and recommend to the Conference the complete assignment of Republican Senators to Committees and shall recommend the filling of vacancies occurring during the Congress. The Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Conference immediately after his election, subject to confirmation by the Conference."

At the first meeting of the Republican Conference of the 80th Congress on Monday last, December 30, 1946, you, Senator Millikin, were unanimously elected Chairman of the Conference and appointed the following Senators on the Committee on Committees:

Robertson (Chairman)	Bushfield
Taft	Capehart
Brooks	Knowland
Butler	Donnell

The Committee recognized—with you Mr. Chairman—the importance of prompt and immediate attention to the difficult task before it and started work with the intention of presenting a complete committee assignment slate to the Conference today.

The Country has expressed confidence in the Republican Party by placing it in control of the Legislative branch of the Government. I am sure it is the wish and the intention of the 51 Senators of the Conference that we go to the Floor of the United States Senate—not only ready to take up the burdens and responsibilities of the office—but fully prepared to start in to-

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morrow with a completely organized majority that can function efficiently in its task of carrying out the mandate of the people with the least possible delay.

With that end in view, Mr. Chairman, I am ready to report the recommendations of your Committee on Committees.

In the first place, Mr. Chairman, I wish to express to our predecessors—the Committee on Committees of the 79th Congress our appreciation of the valuable “spade” work they passed on to this Committee. I am not exaggerating when I say that but for that spade work, the report which I am now able to present would have been delayed two weeks and maybe longer.

This is understandable when you realize—as I know you do—that this Committee was faced with a more difficult and complex problem of assignment than has confronted any previous Committee on Committees.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will take a few minutes to enlarge on that situation for the benefit of the new Senators here today, and may I say to those new Senators—and I will do so by paraphrasing a well-known remark by a very well-known foreign statesman—“Never have so few brought greater joy to the hearts of so many.”

Public Law 601—79th Congress—that is the “Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946”—calls for great changes in the Legislative setup in both the Senate and the House.

Today in the Senate there are 33 Standing Committees. Of these twelve are known as Major Committees and twenty-one as Minor Committees. Under the Reorganization Act the thirty-three Standing Committees in the Senate have been reduced to fifteen, and the number of Committees a Senator may serve on is clearly specified in subparagraph 4 on Page 10 of the Act, which I will read to you:

Each Senator shall serve on two Standing Committees and no more; except that Senators of the Majority Party who are members of the Committee on the District of Columbia or of the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments may serve on three Standing Committees and no more.

This is a very cleverly drawn provision for it not only takes care of the number of committees each Senator can serve on, but it also automatically takes care of the general ratio of Minority Party assignments to those of the Majority Party.

The initial approach to the question of party proportion on the Committees is decided by this paragraph. That definitely restricts the Democratic Party to two assignments to each Democratic Senator. By their 45 Senators the Democratic Party can claim ninety committee seats. On a 7 to 6 ratio for fourteen committees the Democrats would have eighty-four seats, but this would leave them only six seats out of the twenty-one seats on the Appropriations Committee.

This is not a fair proportion of representation on that important Committee so this Committee recommends to this Conference that the ratio of 7 to 6 be changed to a ratio of 8 to 5 on three Committees, and the ratio on the Appropriations Committee be 12 to 9.

This will give the Democratic Minority their lawful ninety Committee assignments, made up as follows:

11 Committees with 6 Democratic seats	66
3 Committees with 5 Democratic seats	15
1 Committee with 9 Democratic seats	9
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	90

The next question for the Committee to decide was which three of the fourteen Committees would have the 8 to 5 ratio. I may say that the Committee feels that it is entirely within the province of the Republican Majority to decide this question.

The three Committees selected, subject to your approval, were:
 The Committee on Labor and Public Welfare
 The Committee on Public Lands
 The Committee on Rules and Administration

The position, therefore, as far as the Republican Majority is concerned is as follows:

11 Committees with 7 seats	77
3 Committees with 8 seats	24
1 Committees with 12 seats	12
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	113

Fifty-one Republican Senators with two assignments each is one hundred and two. This leaves eleven seats to be taken care of under the second part of Clause 4 on Page 10 of the Act, which means that eleven Republican Senators will have three Committee assignments instead of two and that extra assignments must be on either the Committee on the District of Columbia or on the Committee on Expenditures in Executive Departments.

There are a number of factors which complicate the allotting of Committee assignments for this 80th Congress which did not exist in any previous Congress. As I have said, the number of Standing Committees is reduced from thirty-three to fifteen, and with it the consequent reduction of a Senator's present assignments of five and six Committees to two.

I can assure the new Senators that it is an extremely difficult task for a Senator to select two Committees out of five or six that he has given so much time and thought to. However, the co-operation on the part of the Senators has been most encouraging.

This choice has been rendered more difficult by the composition of some of the new Committees under the Reorganization Act.

Some Committees, such as
 Agriculture and Forestry
 Appropriations
 Banking and Currency
 Foreign Relations
 Education and Labor

remain much as they are at present.

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Other Committees combine the functions of two major Committees or two major Committees and several minor Committees. Again a Committee will combine the functions of one major and one minor—or the combination of five minor Committees. Some are almost entirely new in that they combine functions of many of the old Committees. There is an example of nearly half the functions of one of the old major Committees being combined in one new Committee and the rest in another new Committee.

The Committee realizes the impossibility of satisfying every Senator on his assignments. This is particularly true of new Senators and we of the Committee are painfully aware of the fact that with only two assignments, many have what appears to be “slim pickings.” Were it possible we would have gladly recommended all of you as you stated preferences. There is no question that you deserve what you asked for and I feel sure that one day, in the not very distant future, you will get what you want and you will find that in the meantime your time has not been wasted. I would like to advise the new Senators that as Senators you have the privilege of a seat in any Committee meeting that might be considering legislation you are interested in, and I can assure you that as far as my experience goes, you will find a welcome and a desire to have you cooperate, but you cannot participate in the voting in any Committee that you are not a member of.

In arriving at our recommendations we have been guided largely by seniority on existing standing committees—by the Senators’ preferences—by the relative importance of existing Committee memberships—by a Senator’s background and experience which is generally evident in his preferences—and by geographic location.

There has been a rule, or maybe just an understanding, that no two Senators of the same party from the same State shall be members of the same Committee. In our recommendations we have broken this rule, or understanding, in one case. That is in the new Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. This Committee is a combination of two old Major Committees—viz., the Interstate Commerce Committee and the Commerce Committee, and two minors—the Interoceanic Canals and Manufactures. Senator White of Maine is the ranking member of Interstate Commerce and Senator Brewster is ranking member of Commerce. However, the main reason for our decision in this case is based on Senator Brewster’s very special knowledge of civil aeronautics and of domestic and foreign aviation, acquired during his membership on the Commerce Committee. The consideration of this important means of transportation is now passed on to the new Interstate and Commerce Committee and we feel it is very necessary that this Committee should have available Senator Brewster’s very special knowledge of civil aeronautics.

Mr. Chairman, I will now read the Committees for the fifteen Standing Committees of the Senate and name the recommendations for Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the Committee’s report.