

with that part before going into the regulations or the schedule. I think myself any general remarks in so far as his statement is concerned would much better be made now than later on when we deal with different clauses of the schedule and in that connection I have a question or two that I would like to ask. Doctor Coleman's statement has been made to us as a general review of the work of the department for a considerable number of years. Now, I think the committee should have some idea as to the amount of property still in the hands of the custodian, the number of persons involved, and the number of firms that would be involved. And then having put this question I possibly would be allowed just one step further and I would appreciate, before we start with the detailed examination of these regulations, if Doctor Coleman would just give a word or two as to why the department considers it necessary to have these elaborate regulations at this time. I think if we had that cleared up in so far as I am concerned, I would be prepared to go on with the schedule.

Mr. FLEMING: I think Mr. Burton's suggestion is quite good.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I do not wish to interrupt, but just to maintain proper order I think it would be better if you were to stand up and instead of three or four talking at once, just one should speak at a time. I want the reporter to get your remarks down carefully.

Mr. FLEMING: I think in fairness to the committee it might be well to say a word or two about the ideas discussed yesterday by the steering committee with reference to the committee's procedure. The committee is faced with this immediate problem. The trading with the enemy regulations depend for their continued existence on the Emergency Transitional Powers Act which comes to an end on May 15. It would be much more logical and much more orderly to approach the problem with a review of the whole administration of the custodian of enemy property, including not only enemy property but also the other two branches, namely, Japanese evacuees and illegal organizations, nevertheless we are faced with a situation where we have only a matter of about a fortnight to get this bill back to the House and through the Senate as well. The steering committee feel that we have no alternative but to proceed with the bill in advance of a detailed review, or as detailed a review as the committee might have thought necessary, of the administration itself. The scope of the committee's reference has been extended to include a review of the administration in the department and that, in the recommendation of the steering committee, would be followed by an actual review of the terms of the bill. Now as to the statement we have heard this morning it is obviously an excellent background. I think, Mr. Chairman, it would be useful to the committee to have now a somewhat more detailed statement from Doctor Coleman concerning the revisions that have been made in the regulations hitherto. The committee is aware that there was a substantial revision of the regulations in 1943 and then in January of this year there was a further revision carried out which had the effect of eliminating a number of the regulations. I think it would be interesting to the committee to know what policy was followed in the elimination of part of the regulations and then we might be given, as Mr. Burton has suggested, something a little more detailed as to the reasons why these powers that are still provided for in the schedule of the bill are needed.

Mr. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I find myself in agreement with the steering committee but I would like to make this further point. We are not going to be finished with our work on this committee before May 15 if we are going to do anything like a detailed study of the custodian's work during the last few years. I think it would be of considerable benefit to myself and probably to other members of the committee if there were supplied to us the audited accounts of the custodian for each of those years. I think, then, we would have some time to peruse them and study them and perhaps we could then attack this problem more intelligently.