

**Albert R. Anness**  
**Page, U.S. House of Representatives**

**Working with the Ways and Means Committee**

Albert R. Anness describes assisting the Ways and Means Committee with their hearings on revisions to the Social Security Act of 1935.

*Interview recorded April 9, 2013*

Early spring 1949, one morning “Fishbait” Miller grabs, gets me by the collar and says, “You’re going to go over to the Ways and Means Committee. They’re having hearings and they need you to work over there. I want you to go over there, and you don’t come back until they release you.” And I said, “Fine.” So, I went over to the Ways and Means Committee, and they were having the hearings, the first hearings ever on the major revision of the Social Security Act of 1935—and this was actually the second day of their hearing. On the first day of the hearings, Doorkeeper Miller sent a fellow Page of mine, Dave Cunningham from Virginia, to operate the sound system, but he hated the assignment and asked to be reassigned. The next day “Fishbait” collared me, and away I went to the New House Office Building and the Ways and Means Committee. Had I been present the first day of the hearings, I would have met Herbert Hoover, who was the man who was President of the United States when I was born. He was then, in 1949, President of the Hoover Commission, and the first person to testify before the committee. And to this day, I deeply regret having missed the opportunity to have made his, his acquaintance. I couldn’t have been happier with the, being at the Ways and Means Committee. They were all—Chairman Doughton was a fine old Southern gentleman. He was from North Carolina, and consequently all the staff was from North Carolina. And they liked me, and I liked them, it was a wonderful time. And I learned a lot sitting there in front of the committee.