

The Honorable Clarence J. “Bud” Brown Jr.
U.S. Representative of Ohio (1965–1983)

The Hoover Commission: Part One

Representative Brown explains his father’s motivation to start the first Hoover Commission.
Interview recorded November 15, 2013

BROWN: He was the originator of the first Hoover Commission. He, he managed to get, oh, the Republican Senator from Massachusetts as cosponsor because you had to have a cosponsor in the Senate if you wanted to get it through the Senate, and we did, or he did, I should say. But that, that, was the bill. The Hoover Commission was the organization that had people in it like John Kennedy’s father and, and several others who were related in the business community and so forth. And Dad was the author of that legislation. It was to revise the organization of, of the executive branch of the federal government. Are you there?

WASNIEWSKI: Yes.

BROWN: And it was very successful because if you look at the books that are used by Members of Congress—and by that I mean something that is published as a formal introduction to the Members of Congress and the various agencies in Washington called the *Congressional Directory*—before the Hoover Commission they would have committees that went for pages in that book. The point that Dad wanted to make was that we get rid of a lot of these subcommittees that are now listed as committees with various standings, and let’s get it down to a few committees. He managed to do that, and I think in many ways I profited from that, and so did the U.S. Congress.