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*Not delivered*

Recruiting needs of Land and Natural  
Resources Division.

In our memorandum of January 10, 1968, discussing the personnel requirements of this Division and outlining certain recruiting objectives, we evaluated our present personnel needs in terms of the following problems:

1. Limited trial experience, interest and competence in the Division, it being the opinion of the Section Chiefs that only 25 lawyers are in a position to handle any significant trial responsibilities.
2. A substantial part of the trial competence of the Division is vested in men who are at, or near, retirement age.
3. The Division is not engaged in any training program for replacement lawyers due, I am told, to insufficient manpower for trainor and trainee assignments.
4. Notwithstanding substantial reductions in aggregate pending condemnation tracts, the docket condition of the Division is deteriorating in recent years in general litigation and major tract condemnations. The explanation for this condition differs for each of the judicial districts in which a problem exists. In several districts the problem may be attributed to the absence of condemnation attorneys with sufficient interest and competence to handle the major tract program and the absence of adequate support personnel in adjoining districts or on the Washington staff to meet

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the local requirements. In particular cases, we concluded that the employment of several men with condemnation experience, interest and competence would be beneficial to this Division, compatible with the desires and objectives of the United States Attorneys in the critical areas and save interest accumulations if not limit claims against the United States.

5. Following our conference on the budget adjustments, and in light of questions raised at that conference about the justification of recommendations made in our recruiting memorandum, I decided to submit the following additional facts and observations for your consideration:

A. Deteriorating status of major tract docket in fiscal 1967 and fiscal 1968.

Reductions in major tracts have not kept pace with reductions in total condemnation matters. Fiscal year in statements of pending cases follow:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Matters Over \$100,000</u>	<u>Total Pending Condemnation Cases</u>
6/30/63	784	21,357
6/30/64	667	15,747
6/30/65	697	19,195
6/30/66	590	16,384
6/30/67	681	13,563
9/30/67	688	13,345

B. Particular districts show significant accumulations of condemnation cases.

Numbers of condemnation tracts in excess of \$50,000.00 in Colorado, Southern Mississippi and Eastern Arkansas are good examples.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Colorado</u>	<u>S. Miss.</u>	<u>E. Ark.</u>
9/30/67	85	45	28
6/30/67	82	45	28
6/30/66	67	43	10
6/30/65	28	43	7
6/30/64	11	9	7
6/30/63	11	6	4

C. Potential losses in trial personnel.

Of the 24 attorneys now assigned to the General Litigation Section, 7 are eligible for retirement by reason of Federal service and 3 others are eligible for retirement as retired military officers. This list includes such stalwarts as Floyd France, Arthur Latine, Tom McKeivitt, Herb Pittle and Henry Depping. The General Litigation Section has only two lawyers under 40 years of age.