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COMPETITION

The first Progress Report defined certain objectives for legislative actions that would benefit small business by enhancing the competitive character of the economy. These aimed at closer Federal scrutiny of mergers and certain procedural changes in the antitrust laws which would facilitate their enforcement. In connection with the latter, it was proposed that cease-and-desist orders of the Federal Trade Commission under the Clayton Act be final when issued, unless appealed to the courts; and that the Attorney General be given the power, when civil proceedings are contemplated, to issue a civil investigative demand, thus ensuring the production of documents needed to determine whether a complaint should be filed.

Legislation which would accomplish these objectives was introduced in the 85th Congress but failed of passage. The Cabinet Committee continues to believe that measures to facilitate the enforcement of the antitrust laws can be of significant benefit to small business, and renews its endorsement of proposals it has already made to this end.

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