

newsreels, to be exhibited or used in the State of Maryland, and disapproves such as are obscene or tend in its judgment to debase or corrupt morals or incite to crimes.

The Board furnishes an official approval seal which must be displayed on the screen when the picture is shown (Code 1957, 1967 Repl. Vol., Art. 66A).

Appropriations	1967	1968
General Funds.....	\$75,192	\$76,974
Staff: 12.		

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Chairman: Solomon Liss, 1971

- Charles E. Edmondson, 1969; H. Reese Shoemaker, Jr., 1973
- Charles R. Ritchey, General Counsel, 1973
- William O. Doub, People's Counsel
- Charles C. Constantine, Executive Secretary
- Hugh H. Hunter, Chief Engineer
- Thomas E. Cosgrove, Jr., Chief Auditor
- Joseph S. A. Giardina, Director of Transportation
- Wilson B. Stringer, Field Adviser

301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore 21201 Telephone: 383-3010

The Public Service Commission, established by Chapter 180, Acts of 1910, is composed of three members appointed by the Governor for six-year terms, one term expiring every two years. The Governor also appoints the General Counsel for a six-year term and the People's Counsel, who serves at the pleasure of the Governor (Code 1957, 1965 Repl. Vol., Art. 78, secs. 5, 6, 12, 14). The Public Service Commission has jurisdiction over common carriers, including steam and electric railroads, street railways, sleeping car companies, bus lines, express companies, steamboat companies, power boats, ferry companies, carriers by aircraft, toll bridges, and all carriers, generally, engaged in the public transportation of passengers or freight within the State of Maryland, except those carriers of passengers which come within the jurisdiction of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission (Acts 1959, Ch. 613); and over all taxicabs operating in the City of Baltimore, Baltimore County, Cumberland, Hagerstown, and Cecil County. In addition, the Commission licenses the taxicab drivers in Baltimore City. The Commission also exercises jurisdiction over all gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, water, sewage disposal, heating and refrigerating companies operating within the State. The Commission has the power to fix both minimum and maximum rates and to suspend schedules pending the determination of the reasonableness of the proposed rates. Public utilities may not abandon or discontinue the exercise of any franchise without permission of the Commission. The Commission tests all gas and electric meters before installation; it also tests previously installed meters at the request of the consumer. It maintains a laboratory in which it makes daily tests of gas furnished in the City of Baltimore. It also makes regular and frequent tests of the gas and electricity furnished in other parts of the State (Code 1957, 1965 Repl. Vol., Art. 78, secs. 1-107).

The Commission is also authorized to make joint investigations, hold joint hearings, and issue joint or other concurrent orders in conjunction with any official board or commission of any state or the Federal government under agreements and compacts between states, under the concurrent powers of states to regulate interstate commerce as an agency of the Federal government, or otherwise (Code 1957, 1965 Repl. Vol., Art. 78, sec. 59). The Public Service Commission is