

May 11, 1936

To: Dr. Paul P. Gourrich

From: N. Sameth

Re: The Docket Section's Industrial Classification.

By chance I happened to run across a card index file in the Docket Section, wherein all registrants under the 1933 and 1934 Acts are given a "business" classification.

Miss Borger, who is an assistant in the Docket, tells me that this "business" classification of registrants has been maintained ever since the Federal Trade Commission days. Starting last fall, this classifying has been done under a PWA grant - until a month or so ago by a Mr. Dornberg (?) and since then by a Mr. Bremer and one or two assistants. It is unfortunate that we did not know such work was being done so that we might have advised the Docket of our industry classification when it was drawn up late in 1934. However, it seems that practically nobody outside of the Docket Section knew the existence of this work; not even Mr. Boardman had heard of it. As Dr. Goldschmidt points out, it is something of a mystery how the PWA work was authorized by the Commission without drawing the attention of the Research Division.

The classification in the Docket has been according to very minute business groupings and it is very likely that there are many clashes with our classification of individual companies. It must be understood that the Docket's work has been conducted without the knowledge or use of the industry classification, which is generally adopted throughout the Commission. Furthermore, this work represents duplication as Shirer has classified all 1934 registrants and I have classified all 1933 registrants from September 1, 1934 to April 30, 1936. Aside from the lost labor that has resulted from duplication probably no harm has been done as nobody knew that such an industry classification was in existence.

There seems to be no doubt that from now on this work should come under your supervision or, at least, it should be correlated with the work being done in this division.

N. Sameth/ow