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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ACTIVITIES
OF INTEREST TO THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY

Remarks of

HON. R. E. FREER, VICE CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Before the

ASSOCIATED TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS

Washington, D. C.
Shoreham Hotel, 10:00 A.M.
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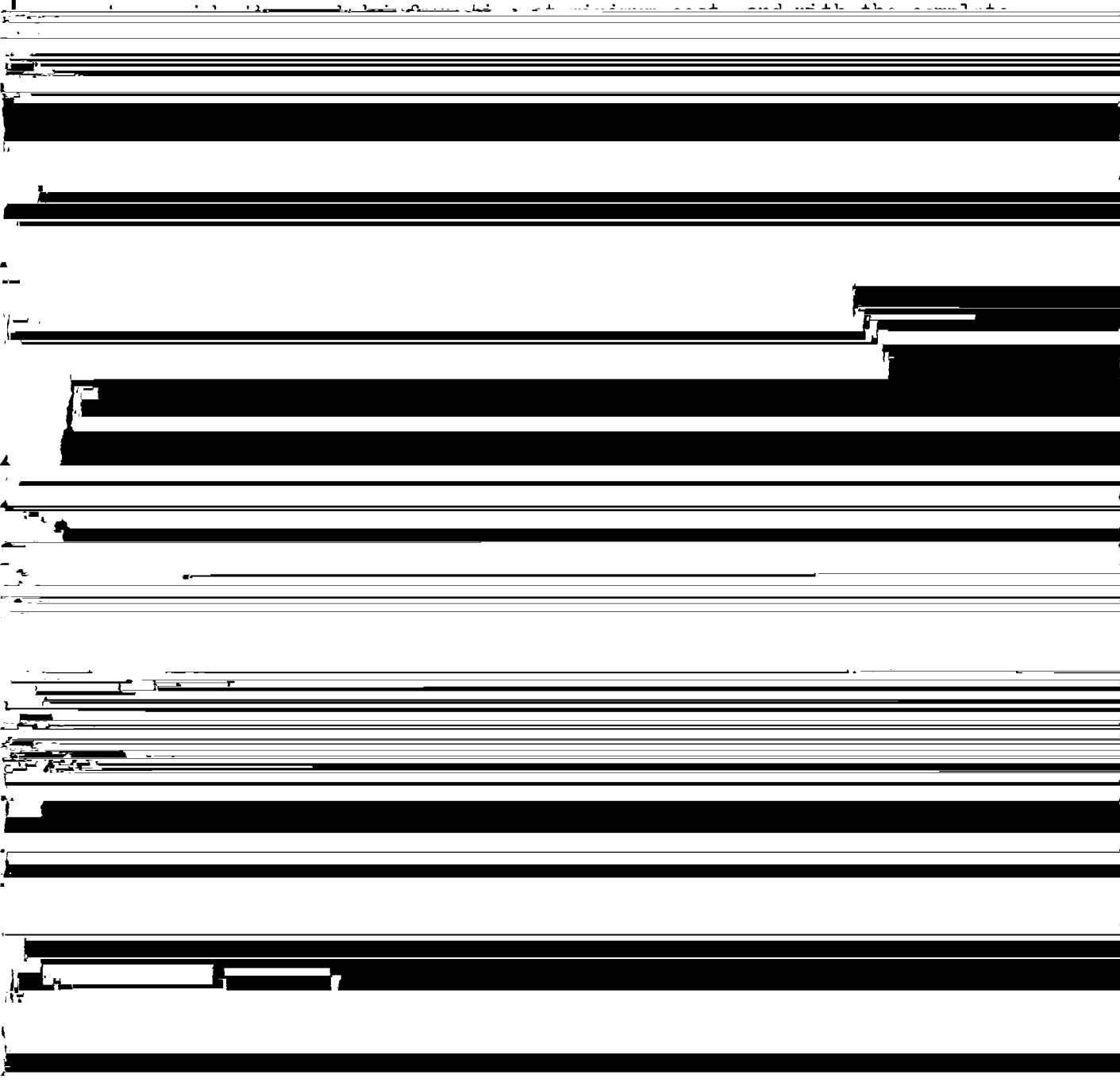
HON. R. E. FREER, VICE CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

The magazine Printer's Ink, an avowed supporter of those prewar reports, on one occasion commented as follows:

information on the selling and advertising expenses in leading industries and the relationship of these expenses to total sales."

continuance by the Securities and Exchange Commission of its current responsibility for collection of financial information for corporations with securities listed on a national stock exchange. The reports are designed to meet the general needs of Government and the public for current, reliable financial data on a quarterly and annual basis as to the operations of our manufacturing corporations.

This program of joint postwar financial reports was developed after extensive work with the assistance of an interagency committee representing nine Government agencies and functioning under the direction of the Division of Statistical Standards of the Bureau of the Budget. This special committee was formed in the early part of 1946 for the purpose of determining the needs of the Federal Government for financial statistics as well as the specific needs of the two Commissions. This committee developed a comprehensive pro-



from attempting to catalogue the practices it deemed unfair and deceptive,
~~feels that precise definition might result in confusion. The failure to~~

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Mr. Justice Holmes once wrote:

"It is not enough for the knight of romance that his lady is a very nice girl. If you do not admit that she is the best that God ever made, or will make, you must fight."

essentially harmful to the competitive system in the same manner as restraints on freedom of competition, since such proscribed discriminations aid the large buyer to grow even larger as a result of his cheaper purchases being translated into lower sales prices in competitive markets.

VII. The Commission Policies And Procedures

The Commission recently reexamined its own procedures and the methods of handling its work, resulting in an expanded use of industry-wide investigations coupled with increased emphasis upon correction by cooperative procedures as well as in a revision of the rules of practice in formal cases. One criticism of the traditional case-by-case procedure, viz., investigation, complaint, hearing and order, was that competitors of the party so proceeded against were left free to follow the identical illegal practice until such time as the Commission issued orders to cease and desist against

each separate offender in turn. Where appropriate, simultaneous uniform corrective measures on an industry-wide basis are now proposed rather than

first, pointed. It saw where appropriate because application of such simil-