

Senate Report 93-549

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Senate Report 93-549 ***"EMERGENCY POWERS STATUTES: Provisions of Federal Law Now In Effect Delegating To The Executive Extraordinary Authority In Time of National Emergency"*** November 19, 1973 (cover page)

Background and History

Senate Report 93-549 entitled ***"EMERGENCY POWERS STATUTES: Provisions of Federal Law Now In Effect Delegating To The Executive Extraordinary Authority In Time of National Emergency"*** was issued on November 19, 1973 by the *"Special Committee on the Termination of the National Emergency"* pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 9 - [93rd Congress](#), 1st Session.^[1]

The *"Special Committee on the Termination of the National Emergency"* was created to examine the consequences of terminating the declared states of national emergency that then prevailed; to recommend what steps the Congress should take to ensure that the termination could be accomplished without adverse effect upon the necessary tasks of governing; and, also, to recommend ways in which the United States could meet future emergency situations with speed and effectiveness but without relinquishment of congressional oversight and control.^[2]

At the time of these Senatorial discussions, there were in effect four presidentially proclaimed states of national emergency: In addition to the national emergency declared by President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) on March 6, 1933 (**Proclamation No. 2039**) and continued in force by **Proclamation No. 2040** issued on March 9, 1933, there were also the national emergency proclaimed by President [Harry S. Truman](#) on December 16, 1950 (**Proclamation No. 2914**) during the Korean conflict, and the states of national emergency declared by President [Richard Nixon](#) on March 23, 1970 (**Proclamation No. 3972**), and August 15, 1971 (**Proclamation No. 4074**).^[3]

These proclamations give force to over 470 provisions of Federal law. These hundreds of statutes delegate to the President extraordinary powers, ordinarily exercised by the Congress, which affect the lives of American citizens in a host of all-encompassing manners. This vast range of powers, taken together, confer enough authority to rule the country without reference to normal constitutional processes.^[4]

Under the powers delegated by these statutes, the President may: ***seize property; organize and control the means of production; seize commodities; assign military forces abroad;***