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White House to Hold Citizen Hearings

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3 (AP)—Declaring that "our government must learn what its citizens think on the critical issues affecting their lives," the Ford Administration is starting a series of hearings that will eventually cover all 50 states.

The hearings announced yesterday by the Commerce Department will be the responsibility of a newly created office headed by a twice-defeated Republican office-seeker. The hearings' moderator will be the former director of the attack group for the Richard M. Nixon campaign committee.

The nine hearings scheduled for this year will focus on two topics that President Ford is forging into campaign issues: Regulatory reform and creation of new jobs.

Mr. Ford has proposed \$14-billion in tax breaks for business to help create new jobs. He has yet to offer comprehensive regulatory reform legislation.

John W. Eden, a Commerce Department official, was appointed to direct the hearings in the newly created \$36,000-post of Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for field programs. Mr. Eden, 48 years old, previously was assistant to the president of the Graham Engineering Corporation of York, Pa., and has a professional background in corporate management and marketing. He lost in 1972 and 1974 attempts to win

Republican nomination to the House.

Mr. Eden said that the moderator for the hearings would be Edward D. Failor, a one-time Iowa lawyer who was an executive assistant to the director at the Interior Department's Bureau of Mines before joining the Nixon Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

At the Senate Watergate hearings, Mr. Failor was identified as responsible for the attack group, which had the nominal task of keeping the Nixon committee advised of Democratic candidates' movements and schedules.

The evidence presented at the hearings included a Failor memo to Jeb Stuart Magruder, deputy campaign director, in which Mr. Failor reported that he and his co-workers had been successful in organizing demonstrations to embarrass or frustrate appearances by the Democratic Presidential candidate, George McGovern, and the Vice-Presidential candidate, Sargent Shriver. Mr. Failor himself did not testify.

Abolition of Agency

Before his new assignment with the Commerce Department, Mr. Failor was administrator of the Social and Economic Statistics Administration. The agency, set up by President Nixon as a keystone of his aborted Cabinet reorganization, was widely attacked as worthless.

Commerce Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton abolished Mr. Failor's agency earlier this year.

Mr. Eden said he could provide no estimate on the cost of the hearings, although he said they would be run on "a lean budget."

Mr. Morton said that regional representatives of the program would be appointed in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Denver, Atlanta, Dallas, Boston, Philadelphia, Seattle and Kansas City, Mo.

The hearings schedule has set job-creation as the topic for Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 28; Dallas, Oct. 30; Charlotte, N.C., Nov. 4; Pittsburgh, Nov. 6; and Boston, Nov. 13.

The regulatory reform hearings are set for Portland, Ore., Dec. 2; San Francisco, Dec. 4; Minneapolis, Dec. 9; and Cleveland, Dec. 11.

Mr. Eden said that the topics and specific dates for 1976 had not yet been determined.