



JOHN G. MARTIN
CHAIRMAN

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Industrial Accidents

Leverett Saltonstall Building, Government Center

100 Cambridge Street, Boston 02202

April 1, 1976

His Excellency Michael S. Dukakis
Governor of the Commonwealth
State House
Boston, Massachusetts

Your Excellency:

In accordance with Section Four of Chapter One Hundred Fifty-two, the Annual Report for the Division of Industrial Accidents is herewith submitted.

The Division was able to sustain the favorable results of 1974 and achieve a further reduction in the pending caseload to approximately 10,000 cases. However, the number of cases in the caseload is indicative of performance only in the most absolute sense. The real measurement of performance should be the lengths of time from request to conference, hearing and case completion. We do not as yet have the capability to track cases and gather this type of information but the achievement of this capability has one of the highest priorities.

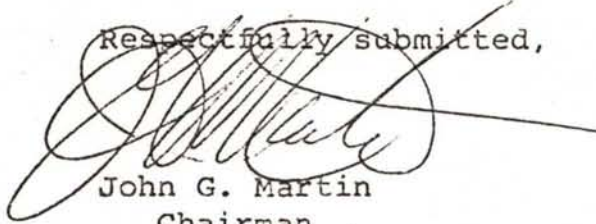
The administrative delivery system has suffered greatly both from the hiring freeze instituted in July of 1974 and more recently from the reduction in the agency's administrative budget. Thus substantial backlogs of work have developed in all administrative sections. Programs designed to alleviate dependence on manual methods have been evaluated and indicate good potential for significant increases in productivity. The courtroom tape recording systems and centralized word processing system appear to offer the greatest returns. However, adequate funding remains a major obstacle. In addition, recently several software packages that attempt to resolve many workmen's compensation administrative problems with a computer have appeared on the market. These packages have been designed for specific application to workmen's compensation agencies and represent the long term answer to the question of achieving increased productivity without a massive increase in personnel.

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In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks for the cooperation and spirit shown by the Board Members and the staff of the Division. Their collective contribution made 1975 a successful year despite adverse conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John G. Martin", written over the typed name below. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

John G. Martin
Chairman

JGM/ba

CASELOAD ACTIVITYRequests for Conference

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	779	876	927	843	1004	978	1162	914	908	1180	993	932	11,496
1975	1323	939	1126	1179	925	919	1093	849	856	899	846	543	11,497

Cases Completed

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	1099	1175	1086	1183	1409	1267	1146	788	1084	1170	1006	1155	13,577
1975	1181	1037	1171	1292	1296	1251	1086	885	1047	1196	851	926	13,219

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
Pending Cases - January 1	13,961	11,880
Pending Cases - December 31	<u>11,880</u>	<u>10,158</u>
Net Reduction	2,081	1,722

Hearings Scheduled

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	619	622	634	617	642	581	552	588	663	565	505	588	7,176
1975	617	706	651	679	688	656	562	500	676	640	564	473	7,480

Cases Heard and Continued

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	80	62	91	99	66	56	43	56	43	71	88	76	831
1975	84	123	120	120	113	91	112	80	95	112	94	68	1,212

Cases Heard and Finished

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	81	69	70	70	70	67	40	53	41	34	42	40	677
1975	54	67	51	65	76	72	61	42	70	73	65	75	771

Decisions

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	73	49	32	81	80	77	73	82	57	76	47	64	791
1975	71	40	42	57	81	62	89	88	103	79	42	69	828

Claims for Review

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	42	31	24	31	62	53	46	53	32	36	35	34	484
1975	46	25	27	24	37	29	41	73	52	50	44	49	497

Reviewing Board Decisions

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	41	26	8	34	28	22	27	33	33	32	17	19	320
1975	21	25	17	27	32	32	25	18	34	30	41	17	319

Section 36 Decisions

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	1	4	2	0	3	2	5	1	1	4	3	2	28
1975	7	2	9	3	4	5	5	5	4	2	1	0	47

Orders

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	348	275	287	355	308	212	310	380	312	343	360	275	3,765
1975	340	359	266	452	426	469	438	280	327	489	360	321	4,527

Certified Copies of Orders

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	11	16	12	10	13	22	7	11	15	13	14	7	151
1975	13	17	7	21	15	18	12	19	11	14	21	18	186

Certified Copies of Decisions

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	16	7	14	7	15	14	13	16	16	14	18	8	158
1975	16	14	16	23	16	15	17	10	12	19	7	18	183

Lump Sums

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	476	524	541	673	552	611	690	467	577	473	470	696	6,750
1975	467	501	660	581	574	703	521	455	537	504	509	570	6,582

		<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
<u>Lump Sum Awards</u>		\$41,272,229	\$49,993,706

Reimbursements

Public Welfare	N/A	\$952,136
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Veteran's Services	N/A	<u>235,413</u>
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TOTAL		\$1,187,554
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Administrative ActivityFirst Reports of Injury

	<u>1975</u>
State Employees	10,084
Self-Insurers	26,453
All Others	<u>187,017</u>
Total	223,554

Fatal Cases

1974	571
1975	517

Approved Agreements

1974	48,578
1975	25,272

Impartial Examinations

1974	748
1975	808

Promptness of Compensation Payments - 1975
(all Insurers)

<u>Days</u>				<u>%</u>		
<u>1 - 14</u>	<u>15 - 31</u>	<u>Over 31</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1 - 14</u>	<u>15-31</u>	<u>Over 31</u>
13,167	8,595	11,628	33,394	39.4	25.8	34.8

Self-Insurance

#Self Insurers	7/1/74	191
Applicants		22
Approvals		19
Removals		1
#Self Insurers	6/30/75	209

Total Deposits - Cash and Securities \$35,275,000

Assessment for Cost of Administration
@ \$5.396/thousand \$207,980

Manpower Status

Authorized	1/1/75	207
Filled	1/1/75	180
Filled	12/31/75	144

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Approved by Alfred C. Holland,
State Purchasing Agent".

JUL 20 1982