

initial decision with the Assistant Secretary, or when he shall have withdrawn from the case upon considering himself disqualified, or upon termination of his authority by the Assistant Secretary for good cause stated. However, the Administrative Law Judge's authority may be reinstated upon referral of some or all the issues by the Assistant Secretary for rehearing. This authority will terminate upon certification of the rehearing record to the Assistant Secretary.

§ 417.7 Transcript.

An official reporter shall make the only official transcript of the proceedings. Copies of the official transcript shall be made available upon request addressed to the Assistant Secretary in accordance with the provisions of part 70 of this title.

[50 FR 31310, Aug. 1, 1985, as amended at 63 FR 33779, June 19, 1998]

§ 417.8 Appearances.

The Department of Labor does not maintain a register of persons or attorneys who may participate at hearings. Any interested person may appear and be heard in person or be represented by counsel.

§ 417.9 Evidence; contumacious or disorderly conduct.

(a) Formal rules of evidence or procedure in use in courts of law or equity shall not obtain. Rules of evidence are to be within the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. However, it shall be the policy to exclude testimony or matter which is irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious.

(b) Contumacious or disorderly conduct at a hearing may be ground for exclusion therefrom. The refusal of a witness at any hearing to answer any questions which have been ruled to be proper shall, in the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge be ground for striking all testimony previously given by such witness on related matter.

(c) At any stage of the hearing the Administrative Law Judge may call for further evidence or testimony on any matter. After the hearing has been closed, no further information shall be received on any matter, except where

provision shall have been made for it at the hearing, or except as the Administrative Law Judge or Assistant Secretary may direct by reopening the hearing.

[29 FR 8264, July 1, 1964, as amended at 29 FR 8480, July 7, 1964]

§ 417.10 Rights of participants.

Every interested person shall have the right to present oral or documentary evidence, to submit evidence in rebuttal, and to conduct such examination or cross-examination as may be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts (subject to the rulings of the Administrative Law Judge), and to object to admissions or exclusions of evidence. The Department of Labor, through its officers and attorneys shall have all rights accorded interested persons by the provisions of this subpart A.

§ 417.11 Objections to evidence.

Objections to the admission or exclusion of evidence may be made orally or in writing, but shall be in short form, stating the grounds for such objection. The transcript shall not include argument or debate thereon except as required by the Administrative Law Judge. Rulings on such objections shall be a part of the transcript. No such objections shall be deemed waived by further participation in the hearing. Formal exceptions are unnecessary and will not be taken to rulings on objections.

§ 417.12 Proposed findings and conclusions.

Within 10 days following the close of hearings, interested persons may submit proposed findings and conclusions to the Administrative Law Judge, together with supporting reasons therefor, which shall become a part of the record.

§ 417.13 Initial decision of Administrative Law Judge.

Within 25 days following the period for submitting proposed findings and conclusions, the Administrative Law Judge shall consider the whole record, file an initial decision as to the adequacy of the constitution and bylaws for the purpose of removing officers