

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 9631**

**TERMINATION OF THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP <sup>[FN1]</sup>**

**September 28, 1945**

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes, and as President of the United States, and since the censoring of communications has been heretofore discontinued in accordance with my direction, <sup>[FN2]</sup> it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. The Office of Censorship, established by Executive Order No. 8985 of December 19, 1941, shall continue to function for the purposes of liquidation until the close of business on November 15, 1945, at which time the Office (including the office of the Director of Censorship) shall terminate. The Censorship Policy Board, created by the said Executive order, is terminated this date. For the purpose of completing the liquidation of the affairs of the Office of Censorship, all property and records of the Office on hand on November 15, 1945, together with its remaining personnel and any balances of appropriations then unexpended, shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury, and so much thereof as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to be necessary for such purpose shall be utilized by the Secretary in winding up the affairs of the Office.
2. When no longer needed for carrying out the provisions of this order, the property and records of the Office of Censorship shall be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and the personnel of the Office shall be transferred or separated from the Office as the interests of the Government may require.
3. Such further measures and dispositions as may be determined by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to be necessary to effectuate the purposes and provisions of this order shall be carried out in such manner as the Director may direct and by such agencies as he may designate.
4. Nothing contained in this order shall be deemed to affect any proceedings instituted, or any forfeitures incurred, under section 303 of the First War Powers Act, 1941, or regulations prescribed pursuant thereto, for any violation of such section or regulations occurring prior to August 16, 1945.
5. All prior Executive orders which are in conflict with this order are amended accordingly.

HARRY S. TRUMAN  
THE WHITE HOUSE,  
September 28, 1945.

FN1 Noted in Title 32, Chapter XVI.

FN2 Chapter VII of this title, *infra*.

*Repealing:* 6 FR 6625, 1941 WL 4084 (Pres.)

## EXECUTIVE ORDER 8985

### ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP AND PRESCRIBING ITS FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

**December 19, 1941**

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, and particularly by section 303, Title III of the act of December 18, 1941, Public Law 354, 77th Congress, 1st Session, and deeming that the public safety demands it, I hereby order as follows:

1. There is hereby established the Office of Censorship, at the head of which shall be a Director of Censorship. The Director of Censorship shall cause to be censored, in his absolute discretion, communications by mail, cable, radio, or other means of transmission passing between the United States and any foreign country or which may be carried by any vessel or other means of transportation touching at any port, place, or Territory of the United States and bound to or from any foreign country, in accordance with such rules and regulations as the President shall from time to time prescribe. The establishment of rules and regulations in addition to the provisions of this order shall not be a condition to the exercise of the powers herein granted or the censorship by this order directed. The scope of this order shall include all foreign countries except such as may hereafter be expressly excluded by regulation.

2. There is hereby created a Censorship Policy Board, which shall consist of the Vice-President of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Navy, the Director of the Office of Government Reports, and the Director of the Office of Facts and Figures. The Postmaster General shall act as Chairman of the Board. The Censorship Policy Board shall advise the Director of Censorship with respect to policy and the coordination and integration of the censorship herein directed.

3. The Director of Censorship shall establish a Censorship Operating Board, which shall consist of representatives of such departments and agencies of the Government as the Director shall specify. Each representative shall be designated by the head of the department or agency which he represents. The Censorship Operating Board shall, under the supervision of the Director, perform such duties with respect to operations as the Director shall determine.

4. The Director of Censorship is authorized to take all such measures as may be necessary or expedient to administer the powers hereby conferred, and, in addition to the utilization of existing personnel of any department or agency available therefor, to employ, or authorize the employment of, such additional personnel as he may deem requisite.

5. As used in this order the term 'United States' shall be construed to include the Territories and possessions of the United States, including the Philippine Islands.

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT  
THE WHITE HOUSE,  
December 19, 1941.  
Exec. Order No. 8985, 6 FR 6625, 1941 WL 4084 (Pres.)