

As Abby and I say goodbye at our last NCLC Conference, it may be interesting to learn how the relationship started. I think only Bill Shaffer pre-dates me with this organization.

In 1980 as Congress was considering The Motor Carrier Act of 1980 which would have deregulated much of interstate transportation, including the transportation of food stuffs, several members of the of the NCLC (then the NCTC and only shippers were members) asked that we assist them in getting the proposed legislation modified. They did not want “food stuffs” to suddenly become deregulated.

Our Law Firm prepared a Position Paper on behalf of approximately 15 companies (shippers and carriers) explaining why the continued regulation of foodstuffs was in the national interest. My late law partner, Steve Weiman, and I personally delivered that Position Paper to the office of each Congressman and Senator on the committees considering the legislation.

Senator Hollings of South Carolina amended the legislation so as to continue regulation of foodstuffs and had a portion of our Position Paper quoted in The Congressional Record in support of his amendment. The legislation passed, as amended and became law on July 1, 1980.

On August 7, 1980, our Law Firm held the first nationwide seminar on the new law in Washington, D.C. More than 100 companies attended, including many that are members of the NCLC. The seminar was held again the next month in Dallas, Texas, with about 60 attendees.

The chair of the NCTC requested that we do a shortened version of the program for its October 1980 meeting which was being held in the Washington, D.C. area.

After that presentation, three of the leaders of the NCTC, Guy Heckman of Nestle’s, Bob Pettigrew of Hershey’s, and George Fessler of Luden’s met with me and asked that I become general counsel and attend all of the NCTC meetings (there were three a year during that time). They requested (1) that I keep them advised of the many changes that were going on at the Interstate Commerce Commission and DOT, (2) that I professionalize the group, and (3) that I monitor the group so that it did not violate antitrust laws.

We immediately incorporated the group (the ECLC, too) and instituted appropriate procedures. We have had discussions about what the antitrust laws prohibit but never have witnessed a problem with such behavior.

There have been many meetings at various places around the nation with many very educational programs and a lot of comradery, benchmarking and networking.

It has been a privilege to be at these conferences for the past 35 years and to be such a part of the organization. We will continue to serve as the NCLC principal office and Registered Agent in Maryland and are available if any strictly legal work arises.

In the meantime, we wish the NCLC and all of its members the best. If you are ever in the Gaithersburg, Maryland, area, stop by to say hello! We would love to see you and give you a cup of coffee or a Diet Coke.

Thank you –