

legislation to provide a mechanism by which the Federal agencies themselves, working cooperatively, can attack some of these difficult problems.

As such, the Conference would appropriately be composed preponderantly of Federal officials and personnel from the agencies primarily concerned—and this next, I think, is also a fundamental point—with a sufficient number of other members to assure that the viewpoints of private citizens are presented for consideration and that the knowledge gained through diverse experience in administrative procedure is brought to bear in its deliberations.

In summary, the Bureau of the Budget believes that enactment of legislation along the lines of S. 1664 would meet a long-recognized need in an effective and appropriate manner. The bill is directed toward the solution of problems to which committees of the Congress have devoted much energy in recent years and which received immediate attention by the President-elect in 1960 because of widespread public concern. But neither the Congress nor the President can deal effectively with all the diverse problems inherent in the administrative procedure of Federal agencies which administer a great variety of programs. Fundamental improvement must come primarily through agency action. S. 1664 would provide the organization and the resources to help the agencies to discharge their responsibilities in this area.

Now, in concluding, Mr. Chairman, I would like to pay tribute and my strong compliments to the excellent work which has been done in this field by Judge Prettyman. We have worked closely with him and the Council of the last Administrative Conference in developing the ideas which have been incorporated in the draft.

We also would like to express our appreciation for the excellent cooperation we have had from many people outside of the Government—the American Bar Association Committee which will be presenting their views here this morning. We have had meetings with them.

We have also had the opportunity to have the views of a large number of agencies. I believe all of the agencies who have any concern directly or indirectly with this matter have written us letters, and we believe that we have now, for the first time, a very encouraging degree of consensus about this matter.

Senator LONG. Mr. Staats, would it be possible for the committee to have copies of those letters to you for our own use?

Mr. STAATS. I think we could work informally with Mr. Fensterwald here and indicate the kinds of responses that we have.

A number of the points made in the agencies' letters have been incorporated in this bill that we are now discussing.

Senator LONG. I think it would be fine and it would be helpful if the committee could have copies of those letters.

Mr. STAATS. We would be happy to work with you on this matter, and we have had good cooperation. I am sure this can be worked out.

This concludes my statement, Mr. Chairman.

Senator LONG. Mr. Staats, we certainly express our appreciation to you for appearing and express to you our appreciation for the very fine statement which indicates a great amount of work and thought.