

And if the agency is not careful to make its findings in a perfectly sound and just manner, it stands to lose its case when the court looks at it. This is a safeguard imposed upon the agency through the fact that its decision is reviewable from the beginning.

Then I think it is obvious why proceedings in which decisions rest solely on inspections, tests, or elections are excluded. These are not subjects in which people who are expert in the rules of law and how they are applied in protecting private rights would necessarily be expert, and they do not lend themselves to formal hearing processes.

I think that is all.

Mr. STAATS. I would like just to add, Mr. Chairman, two thoughts with respect to this. The concern, if any, which I think we have found among the agencies is that in setting up a new agency permanent in character, we would get into policy and program.

We feel very strongly that the focus here should be on administrative processes and procedures. The President has indicated to us a number of times that his central interest is in the matter of expediting the work of the regulatory agencies and improving the efficiency of their operations. There are many ways in which problems in this area can be attacked. The committees of Congress and the General Accounting Office make studies. The Bureau of the Budget has had a very active role, as you know, through contracts with management consulting firms. We have had contracts on the organization and management of all the regulatory agencies over the past few years, and the private consulting firms have made many suggestions, and much has been done in this way.

But I think what we are trying to accomplish here is to set up a permanent body, made up of the agencies themselves primarily, which would be concerned with expediting work, increasing efficiency, and advancing the public interest in that manner.

We think we ought to be very careful not to create the impression that we are establishing an agency here which will be concerned with policy or with program.

Mr. FENSTERWALD. Thank you.

I have no further questions.

Senator LONG. Thank you, Mr. Fensterwald.

Mr. Kennedy?

Mr. KENNEDY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There is one point on which the committee has received no information yet and since this bill was drafted by the Bureau of the Budget and we are fortunate to have representatives from the Bureau here now, I might ask if they could give us some idea of the cost of this agency.

Mr. STAATS. The cost, we think, will be quite nominal. It is not possible, I think, to forecast a precise figure, but we have given some consideration to this point. We think that certainly less than a half million dollars a year, and much more likely in the neighborhood of \$250,000 a year, would take care of the costs.

We are talking about a permanent Chairman, who would be compensated. We are talking about a small staff. The Conference would need to have funds for the travel of the members of the Conference. There need to be adequate facilities for Conference space and funds for publications, but all of this, we think, could be accomplished probably somewhere in the neighborhood of \$250,000 to \$500,000.