

Mr. Staats, will you and Miss Guffey and Mr. Seidman please come back to the witness table. I apologize again for breaking in like this.

Mr. STAATS. It is quite all right, Mr. Chairman.

Senator LONG. Mr. Kennedy?

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, during the recess I took the opportunity to talk further with Mr. Seidman from the Bureau of the Budget about the problem of a possible provision with respect to conflict of interest, and I gather that Mr. Seidman has with him a copy of the law and he will explain it.

Our concern centers on at least two of the types of people who will be connected with the Conference. The first are those who are employed as consultants on a part-time basis or, perhaps, on a full-time basis, but for a limited period of time; the second category would be either the members of the Conference or the members of the Council who serve for terms of 2 or 3 years, as I recall, so that, in the language of the act, those people who serve for less than 100-some-odd days are defined as special employees. But we would like to know what the intent of the Bureau of the Budget is as to, first, consultants, and, second, members of the Assembly and members of the Council.

Mr. SEIDMAN. It was our view, in considering this problem, that both the consultants to the Conference who would serve for less than 165 days, as determined by the agencies, and the outside members would be special employees within the definitions of the new conflict-of-interest laws, which, as you know, repealed all the exemptions which formerly existed in law from the conflict-of-interest statutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. And as special employees, members of the Conference or the Council, then, for a term of years, could participate and could collect their travel expenses or whatever they are authorized to collect without running afoul of the existing law?

Mr. SEIDMAN. He would be subject to those limitations and prohibitions applicable to a special Government employee.

Mr. KENNEDY. Could you give us the statutory citation for the record?

Mr. SEIDMAN. Public Law 87-849, and I might call to the attention of the committee a committee print of this committee which contains not only the statute, but any explanatory memorandum of the Department of Justice interpreting the statute.

Mr. KENNEDY. And it is to that, that you refer in making your statement?

Mr. SEIDMAN. That is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. Thank you, Mr. Seidman.

Mr. Staats, I would like to turn to one other area here about which we have had a number of suggestions in the course of the hearings, and that is the duties and responsibilities of the Chairman of the Conference.

How do you interpret the Bureau of the Budget draft with respect to several areas: first of all, whether under S. 1664, when you prepared it, the Chairman of the Conference is authorized to make studies on his own initiative, assuming there has been no action by either the Council or the full Assembly with respect to whether or not a study should be undertaken?