

Mr. STAATS. We have tried, Mr. Chairman, to spell out the role of the Chairman as precisely as we could. In general, we would envision his role to be one of leadership in the work of the Conference. He would be full time. He would be a presidential appointee for a period of 5 years.

We think that the crux of the question as to whether the Conference is successful or not is going to depend, in large measure, on the leadership and strength of the Chairman.

I do not know that I can add a good deal to what has been spelled out in S. 1664. We have included his role as a member of the Council in 6(b), and also in 6(c) the authorities that he would have as Chairman of the Conference.

Mr. KENNEDY. Well, specifically, would the Chairman have the power on his own initiative to either initiate himself, or on suggestion of anyone else to undertake, an investigation of some procedure of one or more agencies?

Mr. STAATS. No.

I believe section 6(c) covers this point. He would recommend to the Council appropriate subjects for action by the Conference. Like all members of the Conference, he would be free to state his dissents or his views. He could, presumably, as a presidential appointee and subordinate of the President, be called upon for personal advice.

I think that is an obvious point.

But I would not find any language here which would authorize him to do what you are suggesting.

Mr. KENNEDY. That is the specific question I would like to have had you answer.

Now, turning to the question of speaking his own mind, you said that he would have the same right as any member of the Conference to speak.

Would that include speaking to the agencies with respect to suggestions, assuming that they did not request the advice?

Mr. STAATS. I believe that there is provision here for dissents. There is a proviso in section 6(a) that—

Any member or members who disagree with a recommendation adopted by the Assembly shall be accorded the privilege of entering dissenting opinions and alternative proposals in the record of Conference proceedings and the opinions and proposals so entered shall accompany the Conference recommendations in any publication or distribution thereof.

Mr. KENNEDY. Apart from that, though, would the Chairman be authorized under the draft of this bill prepared by you—would he be given the authorization to investigate a matter by the Conference, to submit his own conclusions independently of any report, independently of whether they are dissents from any Conference action, submit his own views to either the agencies concerned, the President, or the Conference on his own initiative?

Mr. STAATS. No. I think the answer is no.

Mr. KENNEDY. Then, in sum, I gather that the power of the Chairman under this bill will be, first of all, housekeeping. He can appoint employees. He can rent office space. And, secondly, he can recommend matters to the Council for their consideration and action. And, thirdly, he can organize and direct the studies ordered by the Assembly or the Council.