

That is about the extent of the functions, is that correct?

Mr. STAATS. Well, I do not know—I think this is all spelled out pretty clearly. I do not know what the thought is back of your question as it relates to the language here. But section 6(c) says that he will be the chief executive of the Conference in that capacity.

Mr. KENNEDY. What does that mean, “chief executive of the Conference”?

Mr. STAATS. He is the head of it.

Mr. KENNEDY. And what can he do as chief executive, the same thing a chief executive of a corporation can do?

Mr. STAATS. This is spelled out in 6(c) in some detail. I would be happy to read it:

In that capacity he will have power to—

Mr. KENNEDY. Instead of reading it, Mr. Staats, let us just take some examples. We have already covered the point that he cannot initiate a study on his own.

Mr. STAATS. Section 6(c) (1) says he can—

make preliminary inquiries into matters he deems important for Conference consideration, including matters proposed by persons inside or outside of the Federal Government.

Now, this is a normal role for any chairman of any conference.

Mr. KENNEDY. Now, what is a preliminary inquiry?

Mr. STAATS. “Preliminary”?

Mr. KENNEDY. What would you consider that?

Mr. STAATS. I would think it would be whatever in his judgment represents an adequate basis on which to make a recommendation for subjects that the Conference might concern itself with.

Mr. KENNEDY. In other words, this is an inquiry to get enough information to put the matter before a conference so that the Conference could decide whether it wants to actually conduct a full scale—

Mr. STAATS. Yes.

I think we are clear on the point, and we have no difference with you on this particular point, that the studies would be Conference studies.

Mr. KENNEDY. It is not a question of the difference. I just want to make sure I know what a preliminary inquiry is.

Mr. STAATS. Well, that is like “How long is a piece of string?” and that is about the only answer I can give you.

Mr. KENNEDY. How long is a piece of string?

Mr. STAATS. As long as necessary to do the job.

Mr. KENNEDY. What is?

Mr. STAATS. Whatever is necessary to do the job.

Mr. KENNEDY. I think that answers it.

He can make as a preliminary inquiry anything necessary to do the job, is that correct?

Mr. STAATS. That is right.

Mr. KENNEDY. Thank you.

Under his power he can request an agency head to provide information.

Does he have any power to put teeth into his request? I point out, since you will read it if I do not, line 6 on page 9 of the bill says: “which information shall be supplied to the extent permitted by law or agency regulations”.