

The basic powers of the Chairman of this Conference, as provided in this bill that you drafted, would be, first of all, housekeeping. He is responsible as an executive for the administration of the Conference?

Mr. STAATS. That is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. And, secondly, he has the power, and, I assume, the duty, to make these preliminary inquiries, which are as long as a piece of string, into things which might be of interest to the Conference to go into further?

Mr. STAATS. That is correct.

And I think—

Mr. KENNEDY. And, he has the power to request from the agencies information not only with respect to those preliminary inquiries, but with respect to any major injuries that the Conference, itself, might decide to make?

Mr. STAATS. Yes. I think that is accurate.

Mr. KENNEDY. He has the power and the duty to prepare, on behalf of the Conference, and submit to the President and Congress an annual report.

Mr. STAATS. That is right.

Mr. KENNEDY. Now, would the next clause there, "and such interim reports as he deems desirable"—what does that mean?

Mr. STAATS. This would be reports on the status of the work of the Conference, on the status of any particular studies that were underway.

Mr. KENNEDY. Are those reports approved by the Conference or are those reports which he might submit apart from those approved by the Conference?

Mr. STAATS. I think if these were purely of a status character, I would doubt that they would be a matter of concern to the rest of the Conference. It seems to me this is something that the Council itself could work out quite appropriately.

Mr. KENNEDY. Could he submit to the Congress and the President reports on the result of his preliminary inquiry?

Mr. STAATS. Well, I think you have to—I don't know that you could answer this one a priori. It seems to me if you are talking about studies that have been undertaken, that is one thing, but my assumption would be that the Chairman, working cooperatively and effectively with the Conference, would not indicate matters that he has in mind recommending to the Conference that he undertake. I would not regard that as anything that is of Conference character until the Conference had agreed.

Mr. KENNEDY. I have only one other question, Mr. Chairman. Senator Dirksen has received some comments along the line that the membership of this Conference would constitute what somebody described in one of them as "a stacked deck," being predominantly agency.

Now, you have discussed that point. You think the Conference just won't get anywhere unless what it wants to do is acceptable to the agencies?

Mr. STAATS. Let me put it this way, and this is a very key point in the whole subject here. We are convinced, Mr. Chairman, that this Conference will not be effective unless it is regarded as official Government responsibility. We could have proposed the same pattern