

the Congress is free to enact legislation at any time it wishes to change an agency's program or its procedures, and that would be the appropriate way to do it. But the value here——

Mr. KENNEDY. Do you think that Congress should deal with agency procedures as well as substance?

Mr. STAATS. Certainly. Certainly. The value——

Senator LONG. If the chairman may interpose, we don't want this to take away the power and duty of this subcommittee. The subcommittee might decide to take a look inside these agencies and see what goes on.

Mr. STAATS. We are delighted at this evidence of interest on the part of the committee, as shown by the fact that you are holding hearings on this bill today, Mr. Chairman. But I would like to emphasize that Mr. Kennedy has put his finger on what I think is a very key point—that the value here is the value that comes from collaborative efforts on the part of the agencies in dealing with their common problems, that they must feel a responsibility for this in order to put their best efforts or best manpower on it and work collaboratively with the other agencies and with the outside people who would make up the Conference.

If they feel that the Conference is an authority that is going to force them to make changes, I don't think you would get a very good result and we would be opposed to that very strongly.

Mr. KENNEDY. Then, even though the membership has been arranged so as to lead to a result, recommendations acceptable to the agencies because of the cooperative effort between the agency people and some other outsiders, you still don't want to make any sort of requirement that the agencies adopt the recommendations, nor do you, I suppose, even want them to report why they haven't adopted them, do you?

Mr. STAATS. Well, you see, this will make available in a very open public way the fact that agencies have or have not adopted these proposed procedures.

Mr. KENNEDY. Should the agencies report to the Congress or the Bureau of the Budget that they have not adopted them?

Mr. STAATS. I think this would be perfectly appropriate and I would assume this would be part of the annual report which is——

Mr. KENNEDY. I mean the agencies themselves. Let's assume there is a report with respect to, one of the regulatory agencies. The agency doesn't adopt the recommendation. Should the agency answer to the Conference, the Bureau of the Budget, or Congress as to why it hasn't adopted the recommendation?

Mr. STAATS. Well, I think all of these may be involved. If it is a matter which would have a significant effect on manpower or budget requirements, obviously we are going to be interested and the Appropriations Committees will be interested. If it is a matter that involves considerations of that character, and above that, then this committee and other committees of the Congress may well have an interest.

But through the annual report and through the workings of the Conference I think that we will be a step ahead in that respect as against where we are at the present time.