

Also at the outset of my remarks, Mr. Chairman, I want to commend you and the subcommittee for its start on a broad and substantial program of accomplishment in the assigned field of this subcommittee.

Since its organization this subcommittee has moved forward with commendable vigor and imagination laying the groundwork for consideration of many problems in the area of administrative law about which heretofore much has been said and little has been done.

I would also at the outset, Mr. Chairman, like to congratulate the subcommittee upon the competence and spirit of its professional staff. You are exceedingly fortunate, I think, to have two such able and knowledgeable legal aids as Mr. Fensterwald and Mr. Kennedy.

Senator LONG. Mr. Russell, the Chair can certainly agree with you 100 percent in that statement.

Mr. RUSSELL. It has occurred to me, Mr. Chairman, that I could be most helpful to the deliberations of the committee by emphasizing the areas of widespread agreement within the framework of the general proposition that the public interest will be promoted by the establishment of an Administrative Conference.

Now, we will have some suggestions to be presented by Mr. Foster as to how Senate bill 1664 may be modified better to achieve the objectives upon which all I believe are agreed. But I believe it would help your analysis of the situation if I could outline first what I believe to be areas of agreement.

First, there is universal agreement that there is need for action in the field of administrative procedure. For years, no one has denied the proposition that "something must be done" to make administrative proceedings less burdensome and costly, to enable Government agencies to accomplish their work with greater facility and, at the same time, to preserve the fundamental rights of every American citizen to due process and fairplay.

Secondly, I now find almost universal agreement that an Administrative Conference, established on a permanent basis by legislation, is needed because it will produce good results in the area of improvement of administrative law. There is also here a strong feeling, shared by the many persons with whom I have discussed this subject, that an Administrative Conference can improve the relationships between the administrative agencies on the one hand and the public which they serve on the other hand.

By enabling the agencies in cooperation with representatives of the public to undertake mutually helpful critical self-examination of their practices and procedures and by providing a vehicle for the formulation of solutions, the benefits of expedition in action, reduction of expense in processing matters, and the preservation and enhancement of fairplay and due process can be achieved.

Also, by providing a "wailing wall" or "escape valve," if you want to term it that way, for the receipt and consideration of public complaints with respect to the handling of matters by agencies, the governmental process itself can be benefited by the certain creation of a better "public image" for the agencies.

In the past, Mr. Chairman, no one has sought to circumscribe narrowly the work of an Administrative Conference. It was thought in the establishment of two previous conferences by Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy that the Conference would concern itself with