imately the same time and they will go out in bunches, but they do not overlap because we will not be appealing to the same potential contractors.

Senator CHURCH. The fourth question is: The "Revenue Sharing Study" proposal was circulated to the Commission members on September 3, 1966. Yet the contract to EBS was not let until May 17, 1967. Do you feel such delays, in this instance one of 8½ months, have contributed to the failure of the Commission to meet the original schedule contemplated?

Mr. PEARL. No, sir; certainly not materially. This was the first of our studies, the first of our major studies. We had a lot of work to do on refining it. We were very careful in working with potential contractors in advance to be sure that we were on the right track in the manner of our request for proposals. After the proposals came in, they all needed clarification, and we think we had a good timetable in order to assure an efficient job and also an effective one.

Senator CHURCH. The Commission seems to have reached the transitional point between preparation of study proposals and the actual study phase. Is it necessary, then, for the Commission to continue holding hearings across the country to learn of public land problems? Is there any purpose served by these hearings which I presume cost the Commission a considerable amount?

Mr. PEARL. Yes, sir. We think they have been very productive and, as indicated in the chairman's statement, the last meeting of this particular series will be here in Washington January 11 and carrying over to the 12th, if necessary, depending on the number of witnesses who want to be heard. I think all the members of the Commission who have attended have indicated that at each one of the meetings something new has come up. We have received new insights in problems. We have had members of the Advisory Council, Governors' representatives, in addition to members of the staff at each of these meetings. For some of the Governors' representatives, particularly, and also members of the Advisory Council, they have been educational in that, while some of these people are very familiar with some phases of the work, they don't have the depth of understanding of other phases so that we feel that what we have found out in these meetings has been very helpful and very beneficial to all of us.

Senator CHURCH. Following the January meeting are you contemplating further hearings in the field during the study period after the contracts have been let?

Mr. PEARL. Yes, sir. As indicated in the chairman's statement, again there will probably be some hearings, but we can't plan those until we know what our time frame is for the completion of the work. As indicated also, the Commission, as its meeting last April, authorized me to plan such hearings for the Commission but we have been waiting to find out what our time frame is. Of course, if the Commission must wind up its business next year there possibly would be one type of hearing, but in any event these will be more likely to focus on subjects rather than on general information, which is the subject matter of the current series.

Senator CHURCH. Section 6(d) of Public Law 89–606 authorizes the chairman to call a meeting of the Advisory Council each 6 months and authorizes the Commission to pay for travel and subsistence expenses of council members attending.