

Mr. PEARL. Well, I really had never envisaged the case of completed staff work as requiring this but it may work out that way.

Senator CHURCH. You say the staff makes an evaluation of the study?

Mr. PEARL. Yes, sir.

Senator CHURCH. I suppose that the staff, when it makes an evaluation, has some recommendations to make with regard to the study. It passes upon the validity of certain findings. It may raise skeptical questions concerning other findings that the study has produced and these would be made available to the Commission for its evaluation.

Mr. PEARL. Yes, sir. I don't mean to get involved in semantics, Mr. Chairman, but in each of the manuscripts, in each of our studies, one of the key elements will be a listing and discussion of alternatives to the existing system or systems involved in the particular subject under study. So naturally, as part of the staff evaluation, there will be some comments as you indicate on the validity of data, validity of the arguments that are raised by the contractor. We hope that we will still maintain our objectivity in presenting this to the Commission so that the Commission will be able to choose ultimately from these various alternatives.

Getting on to your question, the Commission intends to hold hearings on policy changes by inviting interested people to come in and testify, but I don't think that the Commission has ever envisaged, and I certainly have not, that we would say as you do in the case of legislation, "Here is a proposal. We would like your comments on this proposal." It is rather a question of going to the affected user and those interested in that use to indicate what they can live with, what they would like the law to be, what they would like the policy to be, how they think it should be handled rather than commenting on a specific proposal. Of course, before we get to this stage of the hearings or concurrently with it the Commission will meet with its advisory groups, the advisory council and the Governors' representatives, who will sit before the Commission and comment on the study manuscripts, which will be the complete set of data and which will be the complete set of known alternatives. We are making every effort of our own to take from legislative proposals, bills that have been introduced, comments that have been made, to make certain that our project officer puts into the hands of a contractor alternatives that have been suggested one way or another so that we will have a complete catalog and a discussion of pros and cons in the report. This report, when it is received, will go to the members of the Advisory Council and the Governors' representatives so that when they come in to discuss this with the Commission they will have their comments on these same data and on these same possible alternatives.

Senator CHURCH. Of course, the Commission itself will decide upon the procedures to be followed but I just wanted to have it made clear that the end product of this whole process will be, I take it, a series of specific recommendations to the Congress as to the changes that ought to be made and the provisions that ought to be made in the public land laws.

Mr. PEARL. Yes, sir. The Commission contemplates, in fulfilling its responsibility, making recommendations to the Congress and the President as to those changes that should be made in the underlying policy of the public land law.