

Senator CHURCH. In other words, we are not going to end up, are we, with a series of studies with various alternatives posed which we would hardly need the studies to point up to us? Could we not expect to draw from the expertise of this Commission, from the studies that are made and from the whole effort, a set of recommendations that can provide guidelines for the Congress in approaching its task of changing the law and revising and modernizing and improving the whole body of public land laws.

Mr. PEARL. This is absolutely correct, Mr. Chairman, and the studies will form the foundation, the background, so that anything that is recommended can be substantiated by some part of the record.

Senator CHURCH. Fine. Just one further question.

This bill, in authorizing the extension of time of the Commission, includes a provision that would authorize the Commission to place witnesses under oath. Is there a real need for this based upon your experience thus far?

Mr. PEARL. Well, of course, we have not held any hearings of that nature as yet and, as indicated in the Chairman's statement, the mere fact that the Commission has the authority may preclude the necessity to ever use it. It is the same as your authority to take testimony under oath in other commissions that are not investigatory in nature where the right to take testimony under oath is seldom, if ever, utilized. We do not know under what circumstances it may be necessary but we can envision the possibility where, if we did not have the right to take testimony under oath, some information that the Commission wants might not be available to it. If we find a gap, for example, in one of our studies, and we find some information that is lacking, and the contractor says, "Well, I just could not get this information. I could get no cooperation. People won't give me that information," the Commission can then decide if it wants to hold a hearing and bring in the people who would not furnish the information and put them under oath to furnish the information. It is against this type of contingency, in the hopes that we never use it, that we are asking for this authority.

Senator CHURCH. Well, I think that is all I have to ask.

Senator JORDAN, do you have any further questions?

Senator JORDAN. Only this: You raised the matter of granting authority to take testimony under oath. This gave me some concern, too, because I could not visualize any situation that might require it. It caught me by surprise to find it in the Chairman's statement and I am pondering it at the moment.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Pearl.

Mr. PEARL. Thank you very much, Senator Church and Senator Jordan.

Senator CHURCH. Our next witness is Mr. Kenneth Pomeroy, Chief Forester, American Forestry Association. Mr. Pomeroy.

STATEMENT OF KENNETH POMEROY, CHIEF FORESTER, AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, Senator Jordan, I am Kenneth Pomeroy, the Chief Forester of the American Forestry Association.

With your permission I would like to submit this brief statement in support of S. 2255 for the record and also to extend it to include ex-