

is available and its form that we can really get the investigation underway.

Secretary Boyd. Let me add one thing, too, if I may, Mr. Guthrie. We are confident from their statements that the State commissioners, the industry, and other interested parties, are going to cooperate fully.

It is entirely possible, however, that as you get into the heart of the issues there may be some variations on what is meant by cooperation.

I do not in any way mean to imply less than full cooperation but we may feel that we need things which they feel are not within the purview of what they expressed as cooperation. We really cannot find out until we get to the study itself.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Just taking one facet of the information you are going to seek, court records. How would you relate court records to some of the conceivable recommendations you might make at the end of this particular study and investigation?

Mr. MACKEY. Certainly one of the problems that has been identified is the delay in the courts. We have only limited information as to what types of cases cause the delay and what parts of the process are really involved.

I think if you are going to examine the compensation system you have to look with much more detail into what goes on from the time of the accident until the actual settlement. A settlement of a case may take 2 years; and, in some cases, 4 or 5 years.

The problem apparently differs from city to city, and State to State, as to the nature of the delay and what causes it.

Mr. GUTHRIE. The third phase, 7 to 9 months assigned for the evaluation of data and collection of needed additional information.

Are you anticipating computerizing the information you acquire?

Mr. MACKEY. I would certainly think that a great deal of it would have to be put on computers.

Mr. GUTHRIE. It is just a reaction, I confess, but it seems to me a long period of time, 7 to 9 months, to evaluate this data.

Mr. MACKEY. We have not found any real shortcuts to thorough analysis, unfortunately.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Are there other things that you contemplate doing that would explain this period of time?

Mr. MACKEY. We would certainly expect some overlap as the data begins to come in. As phase two is underway you can begin some of the analysis, so that you do not finish one period and then pick up another.

Again, there is a limit to how much you can compress.

Secretary Boyd. As I mentioned in my testimony, Mr. Guthrie, a lot of these are separate items but they are clearly interrelated.

There may well be a number of these items, on which, as we move along, we can issue interim reports. We fully expect to do that to the extent that we can.

On the 7-month period for evaluation, however, one of the things we anticipate is that as we start putting this mass of data together we will find that there are some gaps in our information. We will then have to find some way to plug these gaps, in order to have the kind of comprehensive fact analysis we are discussing.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Then the last phase is 3 to 5 months assigned to the formulation of recommendations and preparation of the final report.