

In closing, I would like to express our sincere belief that the Commission could not, by extending its jurisdiction to the Texas Inter-connected System, bring to our consumers one iota of benefit which they do not already have.

Through forward-looking planning, our regional system has always kept capacity ahead of load growth, has enjoyed all of the advantages of modern technology and scale, has had exemplary reliability with low system costs, and has provided rates that are among the lowest in the Nation.

Thank you, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. Thank you very much. Are there any questions?

Thank you again.

Mr. THRASH. Thank you.

Mr. MACDONALD. Is the Chairman of the FPC here now? Once again it is a pleasure to see you, Mr. White.

STATEMENT OF HON. LEE C. WHITE, CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION; ACCOMPANIED BY F. STEWART BROWN, CHIEF ENGINEER, BUREAU OF POWER; RICHARD A. SOLOMON, GENERAL COUNSEL; AND DAVID J. BARDIN, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

Mr. WHITE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me to help on any particular questions that may occur—and would like to have them sit at the table if possible—Mr. Stewart Brown, the Chief Engineer of the Federal Power Commission and the head of our Bureau of Power; Mr. Richard Solomon, the Commission's General Counsel; and Mr. David Bardin, the Assistant General Counsel who works on legislative problems for the Commission.

We at the Federal Power Commission, Mr. Chairman and other members of the subcommittee, regard this as an exceedingly important hearing. We are grateful for the opportunity to be here. I have quite a detailed statement. It would be my preference to read it. If, however, it is the preference of the chairman that we do it on a briefer basis, I can go through the highlights or present it in summary fashion.

Mr. MACDONALD. Actually, Mr. White, since the proponents have been heard at length, I think it would be very well for you to read it and give us the benefit of your views on this subject.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MACDONALD. But I will defer to your wishes, whichever way you want to do it.

Mr. WHITE. And quite obviously, even though it is set up so that we hope that it flows in some logical order, it may well be appropriate and helpful if there are questions that occur for me to be stopped and we will do our best to answer those.

Mr. MACDONALD. Right.

Mr. WHITE. I appreciate the opportunity to present to you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the views of the Federal Power Commission on H.R. 5348 and the identical companion bills. I should like to examine these bills in a somewhat broader context than their immediate effect on the regulation of the rates and accounting of interstate electric utilities. For these bills would not merely provide an exemption for certain public utilities from rate and accounting regulation by the Federal Power Commission; they would also in our view