

through greater industry coordination and joint planning which the bill seeks to achieve.

If I may depart from the prepared text, I have been advised that yesterday there was some discussion here before the committee to the contrary by representatives of one of the great power companies in this country.

I have not yet had a chance to examine it but I may say so far as I am aware that is the first major utility to make that position. We would like to examine it and I would certainly point out to the committee that the report prepared by an industry advisory committee which was incorporated into the Federal Power Commission's report of July this year as volume 2 is quite to the contrary. It is a lengthy volume. I don't know that it would be appropriate to incorporate it in the record, but I can certainly commend it to the attention of the committee and to all who are interested in this industry.

That report was not prepared by the Federal Power Commission or its staff. It was prepared by an industry advisory committee and takes the view that I have set forth in this prepared statement.

Regional coordination is generally recognized as a national need if greater service reliability is to be realized. As the map on the easel demonstrates, cascading power failures—which do not respect State lines—have occurred in every section of the country. The Northeast blackout of November 1965 and the Middle Atlantic failure of June 1967 were the most striking examples of this kind of interruption.

To reduce the likelihood of these massive outrages, the Commission's Advisory Committee on Reliability of Electric Bulk Power Supply, the group to which I just alluded, composed of outstanding experts from all segments of the utility industry, has urged that:

The electric power industry should pursue every opportunity to accelerate the development of properly planned interconnections among individual systems.

Regional coordination among such individual systems also should be vigorously pursued since such coordination offers the most effective and economical means for assuring bulk power supply reliability for the Nation.

And further, the committee advocated:

The development of contractual arrangements to formalize the purposes, functions, organizational structure and procedures for carrying out effective regional coordination.

Thus, large-scale coordination is not an invention of the FPC which we are attempting to force on an unwilling industry. On the contrary, leaders in the utility industry, with only a few exceptions, have voluntarily committed their companies to such cooperative and interdependent action. The report of the FPC's Advisory Committee on Reliability makes clear that coordination of a type, and on a scale, utterly inconsistent with the assumptions of H.R. 5348, is needed for greater reliability in the power industry.

Mr. MACDONALD. Mr. Chairman, since you asked for interruptions a question occurs.

Mr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. Of course I agree with everything you said so far. As you indicated, I introduced a bill which would do this.

Mr. WHITE. Yes.