

Mr. MACDONALD. One of the reasons I ask is I am sure you are aware that Massachusetts has been plagued with these blackouts and Senator Edward Kennedy brought this forcefully to the attention of the Senate and at one point I thought that the FPC was about to take some steps to have the Massachusetts Public Utilities Commission take some action with the utilities in Massachusetts. I was wondering if anything ever happened in that field.

Mr. WHITE. The State legislature, Mr. Chairman, set up a special committee headed by State Senator Rurich and by Representative Rorick and we have met with those gentlemen and have indicated that within the budgetary limitations of our own Commission we would indeed be glad to provide some technical competence, staff competence, to assist them.

Nothing definite has yet been worked out, but we have been in communication with them and I believe that this is an appropriate manner in which the Federal Commission can cooperate, can assist, State agencies.

Mr. MACDONALD. Am I correct in assuming you can't tell the State agency what to do?

Mr. WHITE. You are correct, Mr. Chairman. We do not have that authority.

Mr. MACDONALD. You can merely advise and counsel.

Mr. WHITE. Yes, and in all fairness I think the State commissions have been quite enthusiastic about working with us and reviewing our reports. As you may recall, we recently issued a report on the Cape Cod power failure of last summer and we have consulted with the State commission prior to the release of that.

We are hopeful that the suggestions that were contained in that report will be acted upon by the company and that if indeed they are not acted upon by the company the State commission will itself exercise whatever authority or prerogatives it possesses to achieve reliable service for the people of Cape Cod as well as elsewhere in Massachusetts.

Mr. MACDONALD. I would frankly doubt that that ever comes into being, but I hope you are right. Mr. Kornegay?

Mr. KORNEGAY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. White and members of the Commission, it is certainly a pleasure to have you here with us this morning and you made a very fine statement for your position. I have a few questions I would like to ask.

Mr. White, is it your opinion, the opinion of the Commission, that it would be to the advantage of Florida Power & Light to be intertied or interconnected with Georgia companies?

Mr. WHITE. I understand the question completely and it is the easiest one I am going to get all day. The answer is yes.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Well, I just wanted to know because there is so much controversy about it, about that particular thing, but the reason I guess the point is controversial is, it would appear to me—just looking at the geography of it—it would be much more to the advantage of south Florida being tied in than it would be to Georgia.

They are isolated, so to speak. I really wanted to find out what your opinion is. The thing that sort of troubles me about this particular controversy, that is, assuming as you have, that it would be to the advantage of the South Florida Co. to be intertied with Georgia and