

mination of insurance and power rates; workmen's compensation; certification of professionals, and services to agriculture, medicine, and related sciences.

In other words, atomic energy had opened up entirely new fields of interest for the states. Based on the 1955 decision to cope with these challenges, the Conference in 1956 ordered a comprehensive study of the problem, set up a Regional Advisory Council on Nuclear Energy supported by funds from each of the Southern States as an instrument to serve interstate interests in nuclear energy developments and controls, thus allowing the states to join together by statutory means to treat matters of mutual interest. The compact concept offered a workable program for joint ventures and reciprocal assistance in the nuclear field, and for assistance to individual states as they desired to proceed. It was approved in 1959, and then presented to the respective legislatures for ratification beginning in 1960. A unique part of the compact was a provision that a representative be appointed by the President of the United States to serve on an interstate board. Of all interstate compacts approved by the United States Congress since the country was founded, the compact setting up the Southern Interstate Nuclear Board is the only one containing this provision.

The compact was presented to the Congress in 1961 and approved in 1962. It was signed into law July 21, 1962 by President Kennedy, who commented in 1963 that: "The action of the 17 states of the Southern Governors' Conference in establishing the Southern Interstate Nuclear Board as a mechanism to pool the energies and resources of the jurisdictions is in keeping with the best traditions of progressive and prudent governmental planning."

This was followed in October 1964 by President Johnson in this message to the Southern Governors' Conference: "Your Southern Interstate Nuclear Board is a fine example of cooperation to meet problems of common concern. I am confident we will see great progress in our creative partnership."

Basically, the Southern Interstate Nuclear Board serves as a catalyst to pool the resources of the region, to assist our states in individually advancing their own capabilities for meeting responsibilities and claiming opportunities, and in providing a central point of liaison with the federal government so that the southern region can be kept attuned to federal programs in areas served by the agreement.

The Board also was charged by this Conference in 1962 to accept responsibility for exploring and keeping in touch with developments in