

Chairman TEAGUE. How much will this one cost?

Mr. SIEPERT. This one will cost \$1,096,000.

Chairman TEAGUE. I am talking about this one, up here.

Mr. SIEPERT. Oh, I'm sorry, sir. The total cost of the Becket-designed facility, if constructed on its present scale, would be \$2,487,000. However, our recent experience with public tours has demonstrated that we require more access roads and more parking spaces than the 250 spaces which the original Becket design would provide. To overcome this with better access roads and 800 rather than 500 spaces, the adjusted total cost would be \$2,700,000.

Mr. WINN. I can't tell from here, is that a one or two-story building?

Mr. SIEPERT. The permanent VIC is actually a high-ceiling, single-story poured-concrete structure. It would be built on a modular base with, I believe, 16-foot floor-to-ceiling clearance.

The temporary information center is planned as a prefabricated metal structure. It is adequate in size and layout to take care of our visitor load to the same extent as would the permanent Becket design. The structure on the left has two small theaters with benches for 250 people each and capable of showing orientation films on the space program. It also has space for some exhibits. In the building on the right are the main exhibits and visitors' services for our tour ticket sales, restrooms, vending machines, and souvenir articles. Finally, at the far right, is the bus loading shelter. Although these are "prefabs," they will be quite satisfactory, from a deterioration standpoint, for the next 4 to 5 years. By that time, it should be evident the extent to which this area does become a permanent tourist attraction as a national historical site and operational spaceport.

The National Park Service has told us to plan on as many as 3 million visitors a year. If it reaches 3 million, this will not be an adequate facility, but it is adequate, we believe, to handle comfortably in excess of a million people a year.

Mr. WINN. What does it run now?

Mr. SIEPERT. The current rate we have had since July on the public tours would be about a half million visitors annually who actually do take the tour.

Mr. WINN. Yes.

Mr. SIEPERT. There has been a gradual buildup to date; some 230,000 people have made the tours since the end of July. However, that is only a portion of those who would come through a visitor information center—

Mr. WINN. I realize that.

Mr. SIEPERT (continuing). Which is free to them. The National Park Service estimates that only 50 percent of those who would come to such a visitor and exhibit center would, in fact, take the tours. The other half, for reasons of time and money, will be quite satisfied if they can see dramatic exhibits and brief orientation films of what NASA is doing at this launch site. So if nearly 250,000 persons have already visited for the tours alone, the total VIC load by next summer will be at an annual rate of at least 1 million visitors.

Dr. DEBUS. We have registered visitors by a sampling technique which covers about 50 States, haven't we?