

Mr. KNOTT. I was thinking primarily, as I am sure you understand, of the administrative problem of fixing responsibility.

Mr. DENNEY. I understand that, but your Department has so much experience in setting up rules and regulations and conditions and terms, I would like to have your Department in there, too. I think it will make a better bill.

Mr. KNOTT. We will be glad to make our contribution, although we think they are expert in operating concessions.

Mr. DENNEY. So it is your recommendation that as far as striking out to get at one executive branch, we strike out GSA in section 2, line 5, and that would primarily take care of your objection?

Mr. KNOTT. I believe that is right; yes, sir.

Mr. GRAY. Let me say I think this is a very forthright suggestion, and I am sure the subcommittee in executive session will consider it. Are there any other questions? If not, we thank you again very much for coming and for the contribution you have made to this legislation, Mr. Knott.

Mr. KNOTT. Thank you.

Mr. GRAY. I see we now have our very distinguished friend and colleague from Texas, Congressman Pickle, in the room. As I stated earlier, Congressman Pickle was very helpful as a member of the Commission, having been appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

At this time, Mr. Pickle, we are delighted to welcome you before the committee and again thank you for your very wonderful work as a member of the Commission. You may proceed in your own way.

STATEMENT OF HON. J. J. PICKLE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much and I want to return the compliment, so to speak, and express my appreciation to you and Mr. Cramer and Mr. Schwengel for the great work you have done on this Commission.

I have filed with the committee, with your permission, a statement of my position on this measure, which is in support of the bill as I have cosponsored it. I would like, however, to make two points in connection with the testimony submitted.

(Prepared statement of Mr. Pickle follows:)

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN J. J. PICKLE

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you this morning. The subject under consideration is H.R. 12603, the National Visitor Center Act of 1967.

Over almost the past year, I have had the honor to serve on the National Visitor Center Commission established to find solutions to the problems of tourist congestion in the Capitol area. I concur in the solution set out in H.R. 12603, and, in fact, have co-sponsored identical legislation, H.R. 12693. I believe you are already familiar with the provisions of this approach and accordingly, will not take your time to go over them again. My feeling on the bill is that the solution proposed there is the best balance we can strike now between what is most desirable and what is financially and practicably feasible. Still, I would like to take this opportunity to elaborate on some other thoughts I have had on the subject.

Ideally, it seems that we should utilize the greatest advantage already existing in the major tourist area, the Mall. This advantage is the close proximity of