

almost every major point of interest. With the exception of the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol, almost every other attraction is within easy walking distance from the Washington Monument. The Smithsonian, the White House, the National Art Gallery, the Jefferson Memorial, and the Archives are all on or very close to the Mall.

It is my thought that a single underground railway having several stops and running the length of the Mall from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol would adequately serve every major tourist attraction without the need for branching out as would be required by the Union Station approach. Since the Mall is the center of attraction, why not keep the emphasis there?

Of course, parking would be needed, but I think that an adequate underground garage visitors center, theatre and cafeteria, could be constructed on the Mall. This way, tourists could easily see the Capitol, then return to the area of the museums and monuments. Congestion in the area of the Capitol itself would be reduced, and tourists here would have a much easier way to get back down the Mall to the other highlights.

I realize there are difficulties involved in this scheme. In addition to problems of construction, it would be much more expensive to the Government. This is the major reason I have supported the Union Station proposal. Still, in seeking a solution to this problem, I believe that the ideal solution must not be confused with the optimum solution; the ideal must not invariably be sacrificed simply because a cheaper, more convenient alternative presents itself. And it is for this reason that I have taken this time to explain my thoughts on the alternatives facing us.

The facility needed most of all, however, is an adequate and appropriate visitors center here in the Capitol Building itself. Some 50 million visitors annually come to the Capitol—and it is embarrassing to have so little conveniences for them. No center, no resting facilities, practically no restaurant capable of handling large groups, few drinking fountains, no parking space, almost no restroom facilities. The West Front of the Capitol is closed off, as visitors are stopped on the balcony by a sign: "Danger—No Visitors Allowed".

Mr. Chairman, this is a deplorable situation. As soon as possible we should provide for adequate facilities in the Capitol. I hope we can utilize the West Front first floor or ground level and construct a beautiful and useful visitors center there—or at least somewhere in the Capitol.

Several satellite centers will be needed over the city, but the Capitol ought to be Number One.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the chance to be with you this morning.

Mr. PICKLE. As a practical matter, I think all the Congress would possibly support would be the bill before us. As the chairman well knows, I was one member of the Commission who favored a different approach, and it is my position in these two fields I would like to leave with the committee this morning.

Of course, I would have preferred a large visitors' center on the Mall in the neighborhood of 14th, 15th, and 16th just in front of the monument. It seems to me that is the nerve center of the Capital visitors and that is within walking distance of everything except possibly the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol.

I think those two points could be connected underground, by monorail or some type of conveyance perhaps we do not know about now, and you could move people back and forth. I am hopeful some day we can have a center like that in that area.

It is recommended by some national architects who made a considerable study on this. Practically speaking, I do not think that the Congress could or would approve that at this point.

The second point I would like to leave with the committee is, I am hopeful one of the first emphases to be given by this committee of the Congress would be a visitors' center at the Capitol. To me this is a No. 1 consideration as a Member of the Congress that we ought to pass.