

I spoke out for this 2 years ago, and as a new Member of Congress then I was appalled by the treatment generally received by visitors in the Capitol.

I apologize for being late and am sure this was mentioned to the committee, but surely we do envision other satellites throughout the city, and I am hoping the first priority would be given to one in the Capitol itself, perhaps on the west front, but a large effective, adequate and appropriate visitors' center in the Capitol ought to be the first consideration that we give.

We give our visitors here rather shabby treatment. We more or less leave them to themselves to thrust about. This is deplorable and I am hoping we can address ourselves to that when we have the funds and when conditions permit.

Mr. GRAY. Let me state I could not agree with the gentleman more. And commenting on your last statement first, let me say that when the Commission's recommendations are printed and presented to the Congress, I am sure that they will include not only the need for this initial visitor center at Union Station, but also the satellites to which the gentleman has referred.

In addition to the Capitol, the Arlington National Cemetery now has in its budget request funds for establishment of a satellite visitors' center at the national cemetery and they will orientate the people as to the individual places to visit and other information about Arlington.

If the west front is extended as the gentleman advocates, I am sure this would be an ideal place for a Capitol visitors' center. We certainly do not intend to preclude in this legislation the need to study and establish other visitors' centers.

I am glad the gentleman brings up that point because I think it is very important.

The gentleman, being the very fair-minded and very outstanding Member that he is, I am sure realizes that this was a compromise considering the very tight budgetary situation where no Federal funds would be involved and if we did go on to the Mall with new construction it would require a very large outlay of Federal funds.

I think Congress now is against any large spending for this type of proposal. So all in all, we deeply appreciate the position taken by the gentleman and appreciate his support and his efforts. This is not something that just happened. The gentleman spoke to me shortly after coming to Congress about the need for a visitor center and we appreciate the great contribution you have made up to this point.

Mr. PICKLE. Thank you.

Mr. GRAY. The gentleman from Texas, Mr. Wright.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, let me commend my friend and colleague, Mr. Pickle, for his always incisive and original, thoughtful, constructive approach. I suppose most of us who have been here at the Capitol for some time have permitted the comfort of familiarity to blind us to the lack of familiarity which accompanies the typical visitor to our Capitol. It is easy also for Members of Congress to forget, though they should always remember, that this is not our Capitol, it belongs to the people. They are entitled to come and see it; it is their property. They are entitled and by all means should have a great feeling of pride and proprietary interest in it.

I quite thoroughly agree with the gentleman that it is difficult for a visitor who has not been here before to find an orientation to know