

I think it speaks very well for what we propose down at Union Station.

Are there other questions?

Again we thank all you.

Mr. PICKLE. May I make one other statement?

In expressing the hope we have a Visitor Center here in the Capitol, I suggested the west front might be the appropriate place. The appropriate committee might determine some other location at the Capitol. But whether or not it is on the west front, since this is the Committee of Public Works I hope the committee keeps in mind the very great urgency of doing something about the west front of the Capitol. I think it is personally embarrassing to bring a group of people to the Capitol, approach the west front, and be stopped by a sign that says "Danger—No visitors allowed." This condition has existed for over 2 years.

This is unthinkable and surely we ought to reach some kind of agreement between the architects and historians and those interested in seeing visitors and do something about that west front.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you very much, Mr. Pickle.

Our next witness this morning will be Mr. William D. Toohey, chairman of the Government Relations Committee of the National Association of Travel Organizations, from Chicago, Ill. Mr. Toohey, will you please come forward? On behalf of the committee we want to welcome you and thank you for coming. You may proceed in your own fashion.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM D. TOOHEY, CHAIRMAN, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAVEL ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. TOOHEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, my name is William D. Toohey, I am executive vice president of the Tourism Council of Greater Chicago, Civic Center, Chicago, Ill. I submit this statement in my capacity as chairman of the Government Relations Committee of the National Association of Travel Organizations.

NATO, as we will refer to our organization, is headquartered at 900 17th Street NW., Washington, D.C. NATO was founded in 1941. Today NATO represents all components of the U.S. travel industry. Membership in our travel industry trade association includes the State travel offices, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, city and area travel promotion organizations, public carriers, accommodations, travel attractions, automobile clubs, petroleum firms, newspapers, magazines, and other businesses having to do with selling and conducting travel and serving the traveler in the United States.

The purpose of our association is to increase travel to and within the United States, and this purpose, of course, is accomplished by making all modes of travel within the United States easy, enjoyable, and educational.