

NATIONAL VISITOR CENTER ACT OF 1967

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10:16 a.m., in room 2167, Rayburn Building, Hon. Kenneth J. Gray (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. GRAY. The committee will please come to order. Off the record.
(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. GRAY. The Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House Committee on Public Works is sitting this morning in continuation of hearings on H.R. 12603 and related bills, to supplement the purposes of the Public Buildings Act of 1959, by authorizing agreements and leases with respect to certain properties in the District of Columbia, for the purpose of a National Visitor Center, and for other purposes. The act would be known as the National Visitor Center Act of 1967.

I might announce for the record that in addition to the bills introduced previously, on yesterday five House bills and four Senate bills were introduced: H.R. 12823, by Mr. Eilberg; H.R. 12825, by Mr. Erlernborn; H.R. 12828, by Mr. Farbstein; and H.R. 12831, by Mr. Kleppe.

And on the Senate side, S. 2391 was introduced by Senator Tydings, Senator Thurmond, Senator Scott, and Senator Baker.

These are all identical bills upon which we are holding hearings for the second day today.

Prior to calling the first witness, I would like to read a letter into the record:

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am most pleased with the considerable progress being made in behalf of the National Visitor Center, progress which is further facilitated by your introduction of and scheduled hearings on H.R. 12603. Having been invited to comment on H.R. 12603, I must refer to the judgment of the experts with regard to leasing arrangements between the Washington Terminal Company, the General Services Administration, and the Department of Interior. This is an area outside the operating jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission. Therefore, we have no special skills or experience on which to make judgments or recommendations. We do, however, support the renovation and use of Union Station as a National Visitor Center. Also we have a continuing interest in the Center's proposed program content. We look forward to working with you, members of your subcommittee, and members of the Visitor Center Study Commission, in developing a program that will be truly inspirational and educational, one that will prove worthy of being a first step for every visitor to the Nation's Capital.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. MACY, JR.,
Chairman, U.S. Civil Service Commission.