

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, D.C., August 29, 1967.

Hon. KENNETH J. GRAY,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR KEN: Many thanks for your letter of August 25, regarding the proposed National Visitors' Center.

I shall be happy to get in touch with my Senatorial colleagues on the National Visitors' Center Commission with a view to having your bill, H.R. 12603, introduced in the Senate.

Best personal regards,
Sincerely,

HUGH SCOTT, U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY,
Washington, D.C., September 12, 1967.

Hon. KENNETH J. GRAY,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR KEN: Thank you for your recent letter in which you bring us up-to-date about the work of the commission to study the need for a National Capital Visitor's Center.

I was pleased to learn of the progress the commission has made and of the suggestions it has proposed. I commend you and the other members of the commission for doing such a fine job in this area and I wish you every success.

Sincerely,

CHARLES H. PERCY,
U.S. Senator.

Mr. GRAY. The first witness scheduled this morning is our esteemed colleague from the Washington metropolitan area, Congressman Gilbert Gude, of Maryland.

We are delighted to have you with us this morning, Mr. Gude, and would you please come forward.

I appreciate your interest in taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us this morning. You may proceed in your own fashion.

STATEMENT OF HON. GILBERT GUDE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mr. GUDE. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear before this subcommittee to discuss legislation of importance to the Nation and to the National Capital area. I wish to commend the chairman for his leadership in bringing together in this legislation the various elements of the plan for the National Visitors' Center. H.R. 12603 provides the Congress with the opportunity to assist in bringing real dignity to an important part of the economy of our National Capital. Previous witnesses have pointed out the sizable financial dollar volume of trade which tourism brings to Metropolitan Washington. A much greater contribution can be made, both financially and educationally, by the establishment of the Visitors' Center.

More than 80 percent of the area tourists arrive here in unorganized, unscheduled groups with no reliable guidance. It is these visitors for whom the Center will furnish such valuable assistance. By such a Center, the National Capital, which offers so many great attractions to its citizens as well as to world travelers, can provide appropriate direction to, and interpretation of, the historic and cultural points of