

the area in a manner of dignity and reliability worthy of the name of Washington, D.C.

Our guests will understand better the fabric of history and government which they observe. With a warm reception they will wish to stay longer, or to return again.

Not competing but complementing our great Capital are points beyond the District of Columbia. In my own Congressional District the famous Chesapeake and Ohio Canal provides a panorama of American history in the magnificent natural setting of the Potomac Valley; and hospitable world-famous dining places await the travelers.

These and many attractions of neighboring Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as other points of interest on the eastern seaboard are as much a part of visits to the Washington area as some of the Capital landmarks. Virginia's Williamsburg, Stratford, and Fredericksburg, and Maryland's Annapolis and Fort McHenry, and Harpers Ferry in West Virginia could well be included as part of the documented tourist information which will be featured at the Visitor Center.

Certainly these additional historic attractions of the surrounding States from the cradle of democracy, with the fine restaurants and lodging facilities of the area, will only increase the enjoyment and extend the stay of all the visitors.

This opportunity for the updated utilization of the refurbished Union Station, so long a part of the Capital Plaza and its plan, is a logical and practical development because of its central location for transit and rail facilities, freeway accessibility, the 4,000 parking spaces, and the frequency of bus service. These facilities and the related planning will provide the area with a system of sensible traffic patterns for tourists.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this legislation, which has the support of a special 21-member commission established by the Congress last year to study such a Center, merits favorable consideration of this subcommittee and the Congress.

Thank you, sir.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you very much, Mr. Gude. That was a very informative statement, and we appreciate the contribution that you and your constituents are making to the great metropolitan area of Washington. Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. GUDE. Thank you.

Mr. GRAY. The statement of Hon. William B. Widnall, New Jersey, will be inserted here.

(The statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM B. WIDNALL OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to testify on the legislation now before your Committee to establish a National Visitors' Center on the site of the Union Station here in Washington, D.C. As you know, I have long advocated the use of the station as a visitors' center and warmly endorse the proposal now under consideration. My own support for this type of project goes back to 1963. In the 88th Congress and again in the 89th Congress, I proposed legislation which sought to save Union Station from the fate of the bulldozer and wrecker's hammer by providing that it become a transportation museum and visitor's center. In this Congress, I have introduced HR 12760, similar to HR 12603, introduced by our colleague, Rep. Kenneth Gray (D-Ill.), to acquire Union