

Would these gentlemen please come forward. We will take Mr. Jennings first.

**STATEMENT OF LEWELLYN A. JENNINGS, CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL CITY COUNCIL**

Mr. JENNINGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the subcommittee, my name is Lewellyn A. Jennings and I am chairman of the Federal City Council. As you may be aware, Mr. Chairman, our civic organization supports the major proposals which are of civic benefit to the Nation's Capital.

May I compliment you, Mr. Chairman, on the selection of the Union Station as the Visitors Center. It is one of the most beautiful buildings in Washington. Lying as it does at the end of one of our most impressive avenues, it is indeed a most fitting site for the millions of annual visitors to Washington. We therefore agree that such a Center as provided for in H.R. 12603, would prove to be a most advantageous addition to the city.

We have been strong supporters of the National Exposition and Transportation Center described by Mr. Owen. We agree with him that a National Exposition and Transportation Center, in conjunction with a nearby Visitors Center located in Union Station, would prove to be assets of great value to the Nation's Capital.

The site selected for the National Exposition and Transportation Center is one of the most dilapidated sections of downtown Washington's business district. Its revitalization through this project will have a most beneficial effect on the whole area. We know that a permanent industrial exposition is favored by national industry—and what better place than in the Capital of our great Nation. The complex lying as it does on both sides of the proposed Eighth Street Mall will add much to the beauty of the city, and in particular to the Pennsylvania Avenue project with which it is also entirely compatible.

From a practical standpoint, such a National Exposition, which will attract millions of annual visitors, requires a great transportation interchange. Otherwise, it would result in hopeless street congestion. There is not room to put such a National Exposition and Transportation Center in the Visitors Center, nor is such a major attraction planned as part of H.R. 12603. In fact, it would be most difficult to find space for the 3 million square feet required, yet such an exposition is certainly an equally attractive feature for the visitors to Washington.

I fully agree with Mr. Owen that these two great features, the Visitors Center and the National Exposition, are mutually compatible, that both are extremely beneficial in the development of the city and will materially add to the vitality of the Nation's Capital.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to express the views of the Federal City Council on the advantages to Washington as set forth in H.R. 12603, and to what I believe is its companion project which we also completely endorse.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you very much, Mr. Jennings, for a very fine statement.

Did I understand you to testify just now that the proposed Industrial Exposition Center that you have outlined here, and Mr. Owen