

General PRENTISS. No; I would like to say also that I am a native-born Washingtonian, and the only one who has ever been the Engineer Commissioner and native born, both.

My family has lived here since 1789, so I have roots around here.
(Extension remarks follow:)

EXTENDED REMARKS TO STATEMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS W. PRENTISS
USA (RET.)

I wish to thank the committee for the attention accorded me in my testimony of September 13, 1967. The unanimous consent granted to extend my remarks gives the opportunity for me to include the following suggestion.

I believe from the comments of the chairman and other members of the committee that the great advisability of separating two such great traffic generators, the Visitors Center, and the Exposition and Transportation Center, was given full recognition.

During the hearing there was discussion of the delay in our project which had resulted from the National Capital Planning Commission not having yet made a transportation study. This study was to be based on their concept of a unified transportation center at the Union Station. Inasmuch as separation of the Visitors Center and the Exposition and Transportation Center appears most logical for many reasons, including as a most important factor elimination of traffic congestion, may I suggest that the transportation study I refer to above could be materially curtailed.

All that is actually required now is assurance of practicality of vehicular access to the Visitors Center. Our traffic studies for our project which contemplate use of the Center Leg, are developed in principle and need but refinement of detail. For example, we have already been assured that the Center Leg will absorb without difficulty the additional traffic we will impose upon it.

Much time and very considerable government funds can be saved by such curtailment. It is my hope that the committee will give consideration to this suggestion.

Mr. GRAY. Are there any questions of General Prentiss or any of his associates?

Thank you very much, all three of you gentlemen, for coming this morning.

The next witness will be Mr. Coon, assistant vice president of the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade.

Mr. Coon, we are delighted to see you this morning. We appreciate having you here this morning. You may proceed.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES C. COON, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT,
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON BOARD OF TRADE

Mr. Coon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I would like to express the sincere regrets of our president of the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade, Leonard B. Doggett, Jr., for his inability to be with you this morning. He had every intention of being here, and asked me to be sure to record his regrets at this time.

If I may, I will proceed with his statement.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, you may be aware of the keen interest that the board has always had in the tourists and visitors coming to Washington. This is one of our main industries here and I am glad to say increases in volume each year.

We have long felt the need for a focal point for these welcome visitors and believe the Visitors Center at the Union Station, as contained in H.R. 12603, is a most necessary addition to Washington. May I add, Mr. Chairman, that we, as well as the others present, know of the time