

EXTENDED REMARKS OF LEONARD B. DOGGETT, JR., PRESIDENT, THE
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON BOARD OF TRADE

The unanimous consent of the Committee to extend my remarks is genuinely appreciated. I would like to make reference to certain programs for the betterment of Washington in which our organization is taking the leadership.

We have made clear our support for the proposed "Exposition and Transportation Center" and the Visitors Center at Union Station. I would like to point out some very important additional benefits to our National Capital which will flow from the construction and operation of these facilities.

The Board of Trade is fully committed to programs designed to generate employment opportunities and strengthen the economic health of Metropolitan Washington based upon a dynamic and progressive central city.

We are deeply involved in developing ways to provide new job opportunities for all of our citizens. The Exposition and Transportation Center will provide several thousand such new opportunities. We believe the health of this city depends upon maintaining a mutually beneficial balance between private business development and the expanding needs of the United States Government in its Federal City. In view of the steadily growing federal establishment from a physical and land use point of view, the Board of Trade believes that a project with the potential of the Exposition and Transportation Center should be welcomed with open arms. The creation of jobs in large quantity without the use of federal funds is difficult to achieve in our non-industrial area and the Exposition and Transportation Center is, in our judgment, a tremendous opportunity to do just that. We want to emphasize that in the midst of a host of critical problems facing this urban area, we believe the prospect of several thousand new jobs, many of which would be open to our disadvantaged citizens, is a big "plus" factor that should not be overlooked.

Equally of importance is the great need to expand the tax base of the District of Columbia. The new District Government is faced with a host of critical problems and virtually every effort to solve them requires huge amounts of tax dollars. We understand the annual real estate tax alone on the Exposition and Transportation Center is estimated at \$3,500,000 per year, a very substantial sum. For example, this figure is two and one-half times the 1966 tax revenue realized from the Southwest Urban Renewal Area, a federal urban renewal project begun in the District of Columbia in 1954. It is more than two and one-half times as much money as is being recommended for vocational education operations in D.C. in the 1968 budget. Therefore, in a city where about half the land area is not on the tax rolls and where the need for revenue is so urgent, the Board of Trade believes that every reasonable opportunity to generate tax dollars should be encouraged. The Exposition and Transportation Center represents, as far as we know, the largest single proposal for completely private development that has ever been made in the District of Columbia.

The Board of Trade has, throughout its 78-year history, recognized and supported the predominant federal interest in Washington. Both the Visitors' Center and the Exposition and Transportation Center will be facilities of national importance. This city belongs to all the citizens of the United States. The Visitors' Center and the Exposition and Transportation Center will be imaginative additions to Washington serving all the millions of people who will come to visit their National Capital. Indeed, if we do not provide adequate visitors' facilities and greatly improve the transportation system of our city, it may well be that within a few years the Nation's Capital will not be considered a convenient and attractive city to visit.

I appreciate the opportunity to present this additional testimony in support of the proposed Visitors' Center and the Exposition and Transportation Center. Thank you.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. All of you ought to speak more of this and think more of this.

Mr. GRAY. Very good point from the gentleman from Iowa.

The next witness is Mr. Claude A. Jessup, eastern chairman, Continental Trailways Bus Systems. I am delighted to see you, Mr. Jessup, and appreciate your coming this morning.