

Mr. ARATA. None whatsoever. As a matter of fact, again we collaborate pretty fully with the Park Service and as you perhaps know, supply many, many Members of Congress for their own use several types of literature to give to their constituents who visit their office here.

Mr. GRAY. I am delighted to hear you say that because I certainly applaud the work you people have been doing with the meager means you have. You need a facility to gather all of these people together which your group, of course, has not had the responsibility to provide.

Mr. ARATA. I was interested in your statement before, Mr. Gray, about the tax returning directly to the District of Columbia from visitors' expense and the people in the District Building, the budget people, have given us information that just now our current \$413 million, and it is that figure now, \$413 million, are spent by tourists and convention delegates in this area, somewhere between \$15 and \$16 million now goes directly back to the District of Columbia in taxes.

Mr. GRAY. Fifteen to sixteen million?

Mr. ARATA. Yes.

Mr. GRAY. The round figures I used of \$16 million were correct; \$400 million and 4 percent tax which comes to about \$16 million.

Mr. ARATA. Correct, sir.

Mr. GRAY. And that tends to be substantiated by the budget people in the District of Columbia?

Mr. ARATA. Just hotel room tax alone, which has now increased to 5 percent, the next fiscal year it is estimated to be about \$2.5 or \$3 million, the yield out of room tax which is, of course, basically largely made up of tourists and convention people.

Mr. GRAY. I am glad to hear that my guesstimate was that close. Are there any questions?

Mr. SCHWENGEL. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Schwengel of Iowa.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. Mr. Arata, I am very glad to see you here. You, of course, know of my interest in what you have been doing and the work you have done for a long time. Eight years ago, this year, some of your people—maybe you were in that group—sat down and talked about it, the advisability, the feasibility, of a Visitors Center at that time. Your people helped me draft the original bill introduced for this.

Mr. ARATA. Yes.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. For this I want to say thank you, and commend you. I want you to really know that you and your people have been doing some planning and work. Also, those of us in this area, especially Congress, and the executive department, ought to be grateful for you for the service you have offered, limited though it is, necessarily, to people who come here. I know of the hundreds of thousands of pieces of literature you send out to be provided and ask for questions, suggestions, and in this you have been of invaluable help.

Mr. ARATA. Thank you.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. You have made a very fine contribution. I was very interested in your statement here, too. I want to commend you about the literature, the thoughts, the ideas you expounded here and the vision you have demonstrated in your statement.

Mr. ARATA. Thank you.