

SUMMATION BY THORNTON W. OWEN—Resumed

Mr. OWEN. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, in our testimony we have endeavored to give you as brief, yet as comprehensive a description of our project as possible. Needless to say, our studies into details have gone far further than this. In fact, we have a slide and taped presentation which we did not show in order to conserve your valuable time. The maps which we had prepared for this meeting were purposely designed to eliminate unnecessary details.

We are in the hopes that from our statements here we have been able to demonstrate how effectively and without duplication our project is the counterpart of the Visitor Center as contained in H.R. 12603. If we have, this will give us particular encouragement in our effort to modify the decision of the National Capital Planning Commission of October 13, 1966. At that time they advised us that their proposed 1985 comprehensive plan for Washington envisaged that the major transportation center, including interstate buses, be located in the immediate vicinity of the Union Station, and suggested we move the exposition and parking features south of H Street and west of Ninth Street.

Your Visitors' Center, as contained in H.R. 12603, does not envisage any unified transportation center at the Union Center. Moreover in the area they suggest, we would cause serious traffic congestion and no solution would be found for the interstate bus companies, or for any suburban terminal. The center leg is under construction and land has been acquired at least to Massachusetts Avenue. The use of the arterial freeway is an integral part of our plan.

Under these circumstances if your committee agrees with us that our project will be of benefit to Washington, we are prepared to return to the National Capital Planning Commission requesting a new hearing.

We are now prepared to answer the questions which we hope our presentation has aroused sufficient interest on your part for you to ask.

In line with what you mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, with regard to taxes, I might point out in our prepared statement we have estimated the increased real estate taxes from this project, over and above our current produced by the existing improvements in the area, would amount to \$3.5 million per year, based upon the present basis of assessments and taxation.

Mr. GRAY. Even if you took off the tax base, some of the so-called substandard homes and business places in this area, the new construction and new investment would—

Mr. OWEN. This would be in addition to what is now produced.

Mr. GRAY. In addition to, or over and above what is paid now.

Mr. OWEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. GRAY. In the aggregate of \$3.5 million.

Mr. OWEN. Not inclusive of any sales taxes, payroll taxes, and things of that type, employment taxes.

Mr. GRAY. Of course, this committee would not be in the position of supporting the plan without public hearings, and some expression of interest by the individual members. I will address your recommendation to the National Capital Planning Commission, and ask that