

NATIONAL VISITOR CENTER ACT OF 1967

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS
AND GROUNDS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10:09 a.m., in room 2167, Rayburn Building, Hon. Kenneth J. Gray (chairman) presiding.

Mr. GRAY. The committee will please come to order.

The House Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the full Committee on Public Works is privileged to sit this morning in continuation of public hearing on H.R. 12603, by Mr. Gray.

Mr. GRAY. Last year the Chair had the privilege of sponsoring H.R. 14604, which became Public Law 89-790, which created a 21-member study commission to study the needs, sites and plans for a Visitor Center in the Nation's Capital.

I am proud to say that the Congress named the very outstanding and able Secretary of the Interior, the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, to head this 21-member Commission. The Commission deliberated for several months and reported back to the Congress on September 15, 1967, their findings and recommendations.

I am very pleased to announce that we are fortunate in having as our first witness this morning the very able and outstanding Secretary of the Interior, who will, on behalf of the 21-member Commission, report to the committee on the Commission's recommendations.

I understand the Secretary has a number of officials with him. At this time I would like to call the Secretary to come forward—and, Mr. Secretary, we are certainly delighted to have you with us this morning.

We deeply appreciate the time, energy, and intelligence you have displayed in this matter. I think you can tell from the large number of Congressmen on both sides of the aisle who have introduced this legislation that it is a vital subject, which is one of interest not only here in Congress but throughout the Nation.

I might say that we have had hundreds of letters and telegrams, and phone calls, from people who are really enthused about, finally, after all these long years, we are about to provide facilities to accommodate the millions of visitors who come to Washington each year. So I want to congratulate you on your fine work and recognize you now to proceed in your own fashion.

After your statement has been made, if you would like to introduce the other accompanying witnesses, we would be delighted to have you do so.

You may proceed.