

Mr. AUERBACH. I am sorry, I find that a difficult question to answer at this time, except to say the way it is presently arranged, there is only one conveyor that need be moved. If the Post Office facilities and the railroad facilities were displaced from the basement, we would be involved in the moving of about four or five major conveyors.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. My point is I do not think we ought to ask the visitors who are going to pay for this in parking fees, and so forth, to have to pay for this facility, this change, this improvement. This will be for the Government and/or the railroad to handle; that finance should not be part of the expense of this total project.

Mr. GRAY. Let me propound this question: If we leave it as it now exists, will we be preempting any space that we might need? In other words, would we need that vacant space for the National Visitor Center? Why not just leave them as they are now and not disturb the basement at all?

Mr. AUERBACH. If I can go back to a previous plan and show you where it presently rests, I think you might see the problem. [Slide.]

At the moment the mail conveyor comes across from the post office on a bridge into this end of the concourse [indicating], and at that end of the concourse there is a great contrivance of chutes and belts. It then goes back this way and it goes along on the edge of the concourse above head to about this point [indicating]. At this point it falls down again to the chute system, through a conveyor that feeds out on this track. From that point on it then proceeds at a lower elevation, almost head high—just barely above head height—over to this area where all the parcel post is gathered, and then eventually down by ramps and chutes to the mailhandling facilities at the lower level.

If that were to be left, that would be a rather mechanistic, industrial sort of thing to have in the entrance of the Visitors Center. I think it has to be removed.

The railroads I understand are willing to give us this track as a mail handling track to facilitate this.

Mr. GRAY. I am referring to the usable space in the basement. Can you see any useful purpose for that space for the Visitor Center?

Mr. AUERBACH. No, sir.

Mr. GRAY. You are talking about the unsightliness of having these overhead conveyors. I am talking about the existing space in the basement.

If we were to say tomorrow we will move all this out, do you see any purpose for that space for the Visitor Center?

Mr. AUERBACH. No, sir.

Mr. GRAY. That is the point. I think these conveyors should be moved at the expense of someone other than the Department of the Interior. I am sure the Post Office and railroad will do that. [Slide.]

Mr. AUERBACH. Well, this is the exiting really from the Visitor Center after availing themselves of facilities, orienting themselves to the Center. The visitors will come out the splendid front of Mr. Burnham's Union Station, take several tour shuttles or various conveyances to various areas of the city. From this end of the building they can have direct access to the rapid transit system if they so choose. [Slide.]

I will leave this on in case there is any question.

Thank you.

Mr. GRAY. Are there any questions on my right?