

Our studies indicate, however, that the new railroad terminal facility could and perhaps should be constructed in the area shown on Plate 3 *except one floor lower*. This would be possible without infringing upon the Mail Handling Building area, since the *roof* of that building is at the same level as the *floors* of the concourse and Esplanade.

This would allow the entire first floor to be used by the Department of Interior for the purposes of the National Visitor Center as a natural extension from the Esplanade. It would also allow the omission of the "escalator tracks" shown in Plate 3, since train passengers would be able to reach their train platforms on the same level as that of the terminal offices where they would have bought their tickets.

This plan would also allow enlargement of the Esplanade area as indicated on Plate 3. Moreover, the "Ramp up" shown on Plate 3 would be practically level with California Street from which it originates. Egress from the terminal facility for automobiles and buses could be either via a second "flat ramp" back to California Street, lanes of the same ramp enlarged or via the first parking floor and the West Ramp.

However designed and engineered, this proposal would bring about a much-needed redevelopment of this Mail Handling Building Corner (the very old and dilapidated building would be razed and rebuilt) with perhaps more efficient and additional mail handling facilities for the Post Office Department, at no cost to the government.

The addition of this 1,600,000 square feet of prime exhibit space to the National Visitor Center and the additional 7,000 parking spaces would allow the present accomplishment of stated objectives which could not be accomplished by the center as presently conceived.

1. Public Law 89-790 calls for provision for "exhibits and displays by the individual States, territories, possessions and the District of Columbia with respect to their history, resources, scenic attractions, and other appropriate matters." This large additional space would be ample for these individual displays and with a large amount of space remaining to provide for more thorough and instructive exhibits of the Federal Government and the Nation's Capital, as well as ample space for accommodating the large projected increases in numbers of visitors. Moreover, it is an understanding that the Smithsonian Institution has warehouses full of first class Americana exhibit material which it has no place to show. Some of this space could be used to great advantage for selected exhibits from this source.

2. The Study Commission Report recommendations state, "at the earliest date, consideration should be given to expanding the parking garage to its maximum capacity, as controlled by the access ramps from Union Station Plaza." The parking problem would be solved by our additional 7,000 spaces, especially in view of additional ramps which would be constructed in other sections of the new building in coordination with the D.C. and Federal road planners.

The 7,000 parking spaces would be arranged on eight floors, four floors of which would be directly behind the presently proposed four floors containing 3,000 to 4,000 spaces.

The new building beginning behind all parking and extending to "L" Street would have six floors in addition to the exhibit floor donated to the Visitor Center. Five of these would be leased out and the sixth would be occupied by the Electronic Education and Information Center. A brief statement of its functions is included herein, and without repeating it here, I will ask the Chairman that it be printed in the record of these hearings. Suffice it to say here that this center will have three functions: (1) the creation and dissemination of educational and vocational training courses throughout the United States utilizing the most modern and efficient techniques and methods, both electronic and otherwise; (2) the gathering, storing, retrieving, updating, and transmitting upon inquiry, information which will be useful to business and government relative to the social, economic, political, governmental and legal conditions and development existing in all countries of the world; and (3) the conduct of research in both the hardware and software used in accomplishing the first two functions.

On the top floor of the new building we would establish an International Club with memberships available on a completely non-discriminatory basis and provide two large rooms of convention hall proportions, a facility badly needed in Washington. Memberships would be made available to Ambassadors and their staffs at no charge.