

Mr. POWELL. Yes. It is just a matter of negotiating between the parties to determine the interest.

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Schwengel.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I have several questions and comments.

First, I am thrilled with the idea and prospect here. I am glad you came before us with this idea for us to consider. But I see some questions that need to be raised.

One, I think we need to study to see whether or not, with this extra parking space and extra traffic generated to that area with the facilities we are envisioning for the visitors, these are going to be adequate to take care of the extra people it is going to draw in there.

It seems to me we are going to tax the facilities to the limit with what we have, what we are generating now.

So I have two questions: One is, you will have to establish and show we can handle in the cyclorama, and so forth, emanating from the Visitor Center going out over the area into the capital area, TV area, that it is not going to crowd the situation and complicate things.

I think that is one thing we need to be sure about before we move, and I think we do not have those studies. We certainly ought to have the studies and some assurances we can handle the crowd in those facilities that will come as a result of this extra traffic that you are going to generate there for visitors.

Now, the other—I presume you are not ready to answer that question.

Mr. POWELL. I would like to have Mr. Funk give the answer to that.

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Funk.

Mr. FUNK. If you do not mind, Congressmen, with regard to the Visitor Center, I happen to be—and I have talked to many people all over this country with regard to this general concept, and there is great enthusiasm concerning a Visitor Center for Washington.

Washington today is looked upon not only as the capital of the United States, but as the capital of the world. There is a great interest in all of the various monuments and the monumental things that people see in Washington, so people want to see these things. But I think Washington has been derelict in providing a method by which they can see them.

Now, it is true we have a National Airport, which is overcrowded; we have the Dulles Airport, which is way out in the boondocks at present; we have Friendship Airport, which is sort of away, too. We have railroads, which are rapidly growing rusty you might say, the rails are growing rusty. And we have the highway system, which takes care of maybe two out of three or three out of four of the visitors who come to Washington. But these highways are crowded. This freeway access into Washington is a very difficult thing at present, so that people just do not seem to want to come to a place where they are having all these harassments insofar as accessibility is concerned.

So our proposal is that we provide this accessibility along with the Center when they get there, and the accessibility is a two- or three-pronged affair. It provides for not only the great Interstate System, which the Congress has built, but it also provides for the parking facility when they get here, and it provides for the courteous type of treatment which people should have when they get here.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Funk is missing my point completely.