

I am greatly in favor of this Visitor Center. I have been a promoter of it. You do not have to sell me on the Visitor Center.

My only point is this, with the addition you are proposing, can we, with planned facilities, handle the extra crowd? That is my question.

I do not need a lecture on whether or not we need a Visitor Center.

Mr. FUNK. Well—

Mr. SCHWENGEL. We sure do need it. I suggested it 8 years ago.

Mr. FUNK. I beg your pardon if I missed your point. But my point is this, that we are now starting to experiment with the rapid rail system, which comes into Union Station, which will bring a great amount of people. This comes into this particular point.

Our freeway system is being tied in close to this point, so the freeway accessibility is becoming available. This will provide heliport services from the various airports, which will come into this particular point. So that all of the various transportation facilities are being tied into the Union Station area.

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Funk—

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I am sorry, Mr. Funk, you are still missing it.

Mr. POWELL. I think if I may—

Mr. SCHWENGEL. All I am saying is you are going to bring 7,000 more cars.

Mr. FUNK. You mean getting them out?

Mr. GRAY. What about the ingress and egress into the facility for the 7,000 parking areas?

Mr. SCHWENGEL. That is one thing I had in mind. But also can we, I think, with what we now have, the 4,000 cars coming in there a day or room for 4,000 cars—we may not be able to handle all the people in the four auditoriums we have planned.

Mr. GRAY. You will have an answer later?

Mr. FUNK. There will have to be a complete traffic study made and this study will have to be not only a present study, but a continuous study, to determine as the—well, let's say the glamour of this rapid rail system picks up as we hope it will, as the subway system picks up its customers, and as we pick up the various types of improvements in air service, how this builds into it, this will have to be a continuous thing. So that as people find that the accessibility becomes better and better, then we have no fear about this Visitor Center becoming more popular and more popular.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I have no question. My only point is, can we handle the crowd that comes there and give them the kind of treatment that I think they ought to have before they start visiting the monuments around?

Mr. POWELL. If I may say at that point, pointing to the picture on the wall (slide) you see the large area, which I will overlay with blue here, is the area of that one floor of 20-foot high ceilings, or however high they want it. That would be donated immediately upon the completion of this building to the Visitor Center.

Our founding corporation would pay all the costs of heat, air conditioning—we would probably separately meter the electricity, since there might be a great number of exhibits there, and we would expect the Department of the Interior, who would take it over, to completely furnish the cleaning and that sort of maintenance. Otherwise it would be completely donated space.