

Mr. POWELL. We have done this—

Mr. GRAY. For example, if I can interrupt you there, we have allowed \$1 million in our estimates for 4,000 parking spaces for ramps. Do you have any idea what has been estimated to be the cost of your ramps?

Mr. POWELL. Yes. We have approximately a \$25 million authorization, budget authorization, for the construction of ramps. And other contingencies.

Mr. GRAY. The reason I mention this, do you feel that you have adequately allowed enough to take care of this problem that is going to be created by your venture?

Mr. POWELL. We feel that we have not only adequately allowed for the ramps, but also for the complete renovating of the tunnels by way of creating a foundation for the building.

Mr. GRAY. I might mention in February of this year, the President ordered the National Capital Planning Commission to make a complete transportation study. I would suggest you have someone in your group be the liaison officer and consult with these people and find out if the studies have progressed far enough to give you any idea as to what they envision is going to be the need in this whole area 10 or 20 years from now. This has been ordered by the President personally. I would think certainly you could get valuable information from that source and maybe let them know what you are contemplating, so this could be added into their projections.

Mr. POWELL. This whole project, Mr. Chairman—I would describe it as a private corporation with public accountability. We, of course, would have to coordinate and create liaison with all interested agencies of both the District of Columbia government and a Federal government. This is a preliminary outline to show what we expect the costs would be, to show what we feel we can do for the Visitor Center, and at the same time help our educational program. Once we generate the interest in this type of operation between our private foundation and the government via this committee, then of course we would be willing, having generated interest, to begin to spend money on elaborate studies of the traffic flow and the rest of the entire project.

But since we are in a preliminary posture, we have come up with a preliminary plan. We do not have thousands of dollars to go out and spend with absolutely no indication that you want to do this with us.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Schwengel.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. Have you checked with the people who have been working on the details of this parking for this Visitor Center—namely, the Park Service people here—on your plan? Have you checked with them at all?

Mr. POWELL. We have not checked with them. As I say, we are even preliminary to that. We knew we had to get a tax exemption on the bonds in order to get the thing underwritten. So we thought the first place to come was here.

We do know whom to contact in these various agencies, however, and we certainly would be in immediate contact with them by way of coordinating the entire project once we have generated interest from you.

Mr. GRAY. I would suggest you do that, though.