

Washington, and Jefferson; to see our government at work; to seek a better understanding of the meaning of the American dream, of what makes America. And I think most experience what they seek; but along with it, they experience a nightmare of frustrations: Where to park? Where to get a sandwich on Capitol Hill? How to make the most of their limited funds and time and still see all there is to see? Hardly a visitor to my office—and some days it seems that all frustrations in one way or another.

I don't blame them. For most, it is a once-in-a-lifetime event, a family affair planned months in advance, with a breathless countdown to the day of arriving here. They and a beautiful city, built to be the seat of our national government; and I suspect that many have contemplated, as have you and I, that the men who planned it and who have seen it grow during the past 18 decades must have had prophetic vision of the greatness which was to come to these United States; but how sad that so few along the way had the foresight to envision the 20th century invasion (which I highly recommend) of American families and visitors from afar intent upon seeing our Nation's Capital. From almost my first day in Congress, it has been a source of embarrassment and a thorn in my side that we allow the enthusiasm of our guests to be dimmed and thwarted by what are sheer frustrations and not mere petty annoyances.

I was heartened last year when Congress wisely enacted legislation creating a Commission to study the need for a National Capital Visitor's Center. The findings of that study are embodied in the legislation being considered today. Enactment of this legislation will go a long way toward eliminating these frustrations and making a visit to Washington the memorable experience it should be. With enactment of the National Visitor Center Act of 1967, the conveniently located Union Station will be converted by its owners, the Washington Terminal Company, into a visitor's center which will be leased to the Administrator of the General Services Administration and the Secretary of the Interior on behalf of the United States. The Center will contain needed restaurant facilities. It will contain movie theaters where our visitors will be able to view a documentary film that will assist them in planning to see the sights in an orderly, comfortable, all-inclusive fashion.

The Washington Terminal Company will provide 4,000 parking places. These, combined with a bus service from the Center to the Capitol and around the mall, will solve the where-to-park dilemma of our visitors and relieve the traffic congestion that affects us all, be we visitors, residents, or commuters.

The railroad terminal of Union Station will be replaced by the WTC with a rapid rail train station to be constructed underneath the new garage.

Thus we see this plan serving many worthwhile purposes: It will bring to our visitors the service they deserve, the welcome feeling we want them to know. It will bring millions of dollars more income to our Capital City. It will reduce the amount of our Federal payment to the city. It will do all this and yet it will NOT add to the already strained budget of our Federal government—No Federal funds are involved in the 19½ million dollars estimated cost for the renovation of the Union Station and the construction of facilities in the Center, the 4,000 parking space garage, and the new train and rapid rail station under the garage. The 19½ million dollars will be spent by the Washington Terminal Company, and the lease payment of 2.9 million dollars the U.S. Government will make to the WTC will be recouped from parking fees and the sale of services and goods.

I am convinced that H.R. 12603 is a necessary, sound, and realistic approach for meeting our responsibility to the millions of people who we want to know the wonder and marvel of our Nation's Capital. I believe this Committee and the Congress will agree.

Thank you.

Mr. FRIEDMAN. Thank you.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of H.R. 12603 and the several identical bills, including my bill, H.R. 12825, to be cited as the "National Visitor Center Act of 1967."

It is anticipated that 15 million tourists will visit our Nation's Capital during 1967, an average of more than 40,000 a day. We all know that they come from all parts of this country and from all over the world. They experience great frustration. I think that all of us