

have heard the comments of visitors who come into our office as to their problems of finding a place to park, a restaurant to get their meals, and the other frustrations that they face because of the lack of proper facilities for visitors here in our Nation's Capital. I think with the passage of the bill now pending before this subcommittee, these frustrations will be brought to an end.

I think that the work of the committee that led to the drafting of this bill is to be complimented, because they have fashioned an answer to this problem of the visitors to our Nations' Capital that will not have a great impact on our Nation's budget, which is of course being strained to its utmost.

I think that the agreement contemplated herein between the owners of the Union Station and the U.S. Government for the construction of the Visitor Center and its operations will provide the necessary facilities without great expenditure of our national budget funds.

I trust this subcommittee will give due consideration to this bill. I hope it will pass and I hope as a result of this, in the near future, we will have happy constituents in our offices thanking us for the facilities that we furnish them.

Thank you.

Mr. GRAY. Well, thank you very much for a very fine statement, and I certainly want to thank my distinguished friend and colleague from Illinois for introducing his bill on this subject.

I might say that we certainly have bipartisan support for this legislation, not only in this committee and in the House, but also in the other body. We have had several Members of the Senate introduce identical bills. This is a bipartisan measure and I hope we can move to passage in this spirit of cooperation. It is a very serious problem, as you so ably pointed out in your statement.

Are there any comments on my right? On my left?

Mr. WRIGHT. I join my chairman in complimenting our distinguished colleague. We appreciate your coming.

Mr. ERLBORN. Thank you.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you very much.

At the conclusion of the hearings on yesterday, there was one witness remaining that had not been heard, Mr. Avery.

I am wondering how your time schedule is, sir? We have one other witness, if you do not mind, we would like to run ahead. Are you pushing for any—

Mr. AVERY. Mr. Chairman, I have a room full of lawyers waiting for me back at the Transit Commission. We are starting the D.C. Transit case today.

Mr. GRAY. Fine. Well, go right ahead. We will take you, sir. You were so patient, I would not want to further impose on you.

Mr. AVERY. I would be willing to wait all day, but I feel badly about the people back at the Commission.

Mr. GRAY. Fine.

We have Mr. George A. Avery, Chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission.

Mr. Avery, again on behalf of the committee, I want to say how thankful we are for your patience yesterday. The Secretary of the Interior, you know, took more than an hour and we ran a little behind. We had you scheduled for testimony on yesterday. But I do appreciate