

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I think what the Secretary—I have not talked to him about it, I just follow the newspapers, I might say with some disgust on the part of people involved in Government who do not sense properly the public interest that you say you must uphold.

Here is a great, great capital area that people just are hungry to visit, and we have done through the years such a poor job of accommodating them, making it easy and interesting. Here we have a department of the Government, of which you are a part, conscientious, dedicated I am sure, that is handicapping an opportunity to serve these people.

It would seem to me that you could have assured the Secretary, "Look, we will cooperate with you completely, get something going now and then make some adjustments," instead of holding it up 60 days.

Mr. AVERY. Mr. Schwengel, first of all, the thoughts you have expressed are precisely the very thoughts that went through my own mind. It was the most undesirable position I could possibly find myself in, throwing a roadblock in that service. What you suggested I say to the Department of the Interior is precisely what I did say.

I went down there and pleaded with them to get together with us and cooperate with us in trying to expedite whatever proceedings would be necessary for the Commission, so that compliance with the compact would not provide any roadblock to the institution of this service.

The Secretary of the Interior is the one that refused to even come to us. He instructed his concessionaire to have nothing to do with us.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I think he was very conscientious in his approach to the problems of the Park Service. He has a great desire to serve the public interest. I know some of the pressures he is under. I know some of the pressures I receive in Congress from people who are coming here, who are almost frantic. So here is a man who wants to promote the public interest within the law—and he is not circumventing anything that I can see or doing something that is circumventing the law as I see it, basically, or doing something that is not in the public interest.

Mr. DENNY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCHWENGEL. And I would hope that somebody would sense the problem here and have a little better spirit of cooperation to reach the goal that must be attained.

Mr. AVERY. I can assure you, Mr. Congressman, that the Commission, if it ever does get involved in proceedings relating to this directly, will expedite it to the maximum extent possible.

We feel very badly about the delay that has occurred already and we certainly are interested in expediting to the maximum extent possible whatever proceedings are necessary before our Commission relating to this service.

Mr. DENNEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCHWENGEL. Yes.

Mr. DENNEY. Mr. Avery, I see on page 7 of the compact that any signatory may withdraw from the compact upon 1 year's written notice to that effect to the other signatories. In the event of a withdrawal of one of the signatories from the compact, the compact shall be terminated.