

It would be simple for us to just write in this law the District of Columbia would wish to withdraw, and maybe we would get an amendment to this compact that we could take care of our own property.

Do you not think that might be the answer to the thing?

Mr. AVERY. I am glad you pointed that language out. I had intended to point it out when the chairman was questioning me about Congress power to withdraw. There is the language in there as to how the Compact could be terminated. I frankly would hate to see—

Mr. DENNEY. I do not see any problem; if we cannot get together with the Commission, there is an out, is that not true?

Mr. AVERY. There is an out you say?

Mr. DENNEY. There is an out for the District?

Mr. AVERY. Oh, yes. All of the parties can withdraw on a year's notice.

Mr. DENNEY. This is not a question of personalities or jurisdiction. We have a problem; we want to accomplish a result. We can go to the Commission and say this is what we want, or we can go to Virginia and Maryland and say this is what we want to do. We can draw an amendment to that, get it approved, and put it right in the bill; can we not?

Mr. AVERY. No question about that.

There is one problem, and that is that the Maryland and Virginia Legislatures will not be in session until 1968 now.

Mr. DENNEY. Do they have continuing authority under this compact? I think they do.

They gave their different agencies authority to amend. There is an amendment provision in here.

I think, Mr. Chairman, we are just talking about something we will talk about when we mark up the bill and settle it that way.

Mr. GRAY. Any other questions?

Mr. SCHWENGEL. One further operational question. I think what the Secretary is going to do here in this District is what people at Williamsburg do. They have a bus service there. As I understand it, they have a very comparable operation, the type of operation the Secretary wanted, with the exception of the Virginia law requiring they have to have safe equipment.

I do not think the Virginia Commission has any jurisdiction at Williamsburg.

Mr. AVERY. I could not answer that, Mr. Schwengel. I do not know how Virginia works.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I think this is true. This is a comparable situation. The Secretary saw the need, and based upon the record of your Commission, he wanted to avoid delay and get something moving and going.

Mr. AVERY. You say based upon our record—not our record as a delayer I hope. I think we have expedited a great number of matters before our Commission. I think there would not have been any problem of delay if they had come before us and accepted our theory of jurisdiction. I think that service probably would have been instituted long ago.

If I may just make one final point, I firmly believe that it would be unwise to have a transportation system in the heart of the city,