

Mr. GROVER. Mr. Chairman, may I make a further remark?

Mr. GRAY. Yes, you may.

Mr. GROVER. And observation.

At the present time I think we are greeting 50,000 visitors per day. Now, if all those visitors went to the Visitor Center to get on these buses you would have, if you got 50 people on a bus, you would have 1,000 buses—and that is a lot of buses. So I think the gentleman's arguments are not totally without merit; this would have a tremendous impact on the traffic situation in the city.

Mr. AVERY. One thing more I would like to say. I think you alluded to it, Mr. Chairman. You suggested if you had the parking over there and free service to the Capitol, some of the employees here might use it. This is a point I think that you ought to keep in mind also about that service and about the Mall shuttle service. The way that it is going to be set up is you do not have to prove you are a visitor to Washington to get on it; anybody who wants to drop money in the fare box can get on it.

I think it is very possible that many, many people who are residents of the city of Washington will be using both the Mall shuttle service, if that goes in, and this service that is talked about here between the Mall and Union Station. And again, this to me is an argument—

Mr. GRAY. Would this not be an alleviation of automobile congestion on the streets? Or are you just interested in buses?

Mr. AVERY. No, sir; we—

Mr. GRAY. Are you interested in the orderly flow of traffic?

Mr. AVERY. Yes, sir.

Mr. GRAY. You are supposed to be interested in all facets of transportation problems.

Mr. AVERY. Yes, sir.

Mr. GRAY. What we are trying to do, my friend, is get rid of thousands of vehicles cluttering up the streets by visitors.

Have you ever come across the Fourteenth Street Bridge at 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning? Have you ever tried to get on Pennsylvania Avenue during rush hour? This is what we are trying to alleviate.

Let's not just talk about buses; let's talk about the common interest and what is good for the city and all the people.

Mr. AVERY. I agree absolutely.

Mr. GRAY. If we can get 20 Capitol Hill people to park their cars and get in one bus, we are eliminating 15 to 20 cars.

Mr. AVERY. I think it is a great idea. I am not opposing that. I am not saying do not let only visitors ride; I think that is fine. Let anybody who wants to get on it get on it. But what I am saying is it has a very close tie-in with the transportation system that we do have the responsibility to regulate, and it makes no sense to me to have this system entirely outside our regulation. It seems to me it would emasculate our powers.

Mr. GRAY. I am certainly not against regulatory bodies, but the Secretary wanted to provide this year a shuttle service, and because of being in court with you people, the public has suffered. This is the thing I am trying to avoid. I am not interested in these other side effects.

I do not want this committee, and I am sure I speak for most or all members, to pass this kind of legislation that is going to end up in