

Mr. DAWSON. We appreciate the opportunity of appearing before this committee and realize the privilege that we have.

Let me make it clear at the very outset, however, that D.C. Transit is in favor of the general purposes of this legislation.

You gentlemen are to be commended on your leadership in proceeding to its fruition. When the Visitor Center is completed, it will be a monument to your vision and your hard work, a very constructive monument.

Any sightseer who has ever tried to park his car in the Mall area, the chief tourist attraction here, will wholeheartedly support the proposed construction of a parking facility adjacent to the Visitor Center for parking.

As operator of the primary public transportation system in the Capital, Mr. Chalk desires that I assure you that a special minibus service, or any other needed service, offering frequent departures, will be provided by D.C. Transit System from such parking facility to and through the Mall area to encourage visitors to leave their cars at the National Visitor Center, thereby reducing the growing traffic congestion in downtown Washington.

Let me say that we are in perfect agreement with Mr. Wright's suggestion and the chairman's suggestion that any form of transportation be of a distinguished and distinguishing character and that we are ready to provide such type of transportation whenever the authority is granted.

For example, D.C. Transit today has 25 new buses that are being delivered for service in the city of Washington.

I want to say also, Mr. Chairman, that we were all ready to provide this service.

Mr. Schwengel, we applied for authority to give such service as the Secretary wanted to give as early as April of this year in a temporary application. We filed our request for permanent certification in May. There has been no action on either of those applications.

Mr. GRAY. Let me interrupt you there. You are referring now to the Commission?

Mr. DAWSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. GRAY. You filed an application with the Commission both for temporary and permanent permit to operate?

Mr. DAWSON. Yes, sir. If those applications had been expeditiously acted upon, the services would be performed today as the Secretary might desire.

Mr. GRAY. So this is not a matter, as Mr. Avery pointed out, "that gets expeditious handling"?

You have to admit that, would you not?

Mr. DAWSON. The record will have to speak for itself.

Mr. GRAY. Applied in April and this is October. I think that is quite a long period.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. You mean you filed in April and the Commission has not yet acted?

Mr. DAWSON. That is correct.

Mr. GRAY. That is the very point I was trying to establish.

You may proceed.

Mr. DAWSON. Now, we must say also that D.C. Transit System is seriously concerned about section 5 of the bill. Now, this section has no