

ior has already negotiated. I had read this publication, but I am afraid I missed that.

I rather agree with your observation, this is speaking not only of the Mall area, but also to and from the Visitor Center.

I notice preceding that sentence, it says: "This service can be initiated immediately by the enactment of legislation authorizing the Visitor Center." Then it goes on and concludes "Under a 10-year contract the Department of the Interior has already negotiated."

I understand, General, it is your feeling that this would preclude D.C. Transit from bidding on this.

Mr. DAWSON. We have been precluded from bidding.

Mr. McEWEN. On the Mall?

Mr. DAWSON. We bid on the Mall package, but not on the parking area package plus the Mall package.

Mr. McEWEN. You would consider that this would indicate you would be foreclosed from putting a bid in on the transportation connection with the Visitor Center?

Mr. DAWSON. That is the way I read it.

Mr. GRAY. I thank the gentleman from New York.

Are there any other questions or comments?

I thank you gentlemen for coming. We appreciate it.

I wonder if I could have the attention of the committee members. We have two more witnesses. The next witness is the very lovely and distinguished Mrs. Ester Coopersmith, a member of the 21-member Commission. She has been very patient. I hope we can take her next, if you do not mind.

Mrs. Coopersmith, will you please come forward.

She is a member of the Commission, attended all the meetings, worked very hard in helping us come up with these recommendations, and she is here on behalf of the 21-member Commission.

I would hope we could conclude the hearings today and go into executive session by next Tuesday and the full committee meeting by next Thursday. So if I could have the patience and tolerance of the members, we will try to finish today.

On behalf of the committee, Mrs. Coopersmith, I want to thank you for your very tireless work in behalf of the Commission. You attended all the meetings and were very attentive, very helpful, and we appreciate your patience in the last 2 days waiting to testify, and thank you very much for coming.

You can proceed in your own fashion.

STATEMENT OF MRS. ESTHER COOPERSMITH, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL VISITOR CENTER STUDY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mrs. COOPERSMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is always a pleasure to wait on this committee.

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, my name is Esther Coopersmith. I am a mother of four children and I live in Chevy Chase, Md.

I am a public member of the President's Commission for the National Visitor Center.