

Incidentally, when I was appointed to this Commission by the President, some of my friends said, "Oh, this is just an honorary committee appointment you have and the Commission won't do any work." However, my friends do not know your very able chairman, Congressman Ken Gray, and they do not know Congressman Schwengel, Mr. Cramer, and your distinguished friend that just left, Mr. Pickle, from Texas. These men worked so long, so very, very hard, and spent so much time and effort, let me say to you that the Nation is deeply grateful for all their work.

I am very pleased to be here today to testify on behalf of and in favor of an Orientation and Education Center for visitors to our Nation's Capital. I have the feeling that you have heard so much on so many aspects of this project that you feel there may be very little more to add; but I do think I have a viewpoint which, while not unique, has not yet been applied in this hearing to express one of the real needs for the National Visitor Center.

You represent people from all over the country. Your constituents come to visit Washington, the world's capital, by thousands each day, as you witness running back and forth, the clusters of people.

When your constituents come, they bring their children, so that their children can learn and participate in the great history of our country.

I strongly believe, Mr. Congressmen, that you owe your constituents an opportunity to enjoy a visit to Washington, to have an easy experience, instead of a frustrating experience, in Washington.

I am sorry if I have not told you of the millions of dollars spent in Washington and the millions more that this means in taxes; but I see a National Visitor Center as a living historical and educational experience with a meaningful sense of orderliness and direction for parents leading their children into the complexities of the history and the education, and even the glory of the city which means so very much to our country. You have the responsibility to your constituents.

As a member of the President's Commission, I can attest that we have exhaustively studied every possibility for a National Visitor Center. Under the direction, again, of your very able chairman, Congressman Ken Gray, I can tell you that we have gone through every nook and cranny in the District of Columbia to locate the proper site for the Center. We feel that we have located a great facility in which we can pour all of the ingredients for a very fine project.

Perhaps there is one other point that I feel might have been overlooked, too. I have worked with many corporate organizations that have generous hearts and a genuine wish to participate in national historical and educational projects. I am certain that, if an opportunity to duplicate some of the magic things that I saw at Montreal, at Expo 67, were properly offered, our national corporate leaders would happily and freely help furbish our National Visitor Center. I am so certain of this, I would like to offer my own humble efforts to enlist their participation.

Gentlemen, I support the farsighted and far-reaching program to convert Union Station to a National Visitor Center, and I thank you for this opportunity to appear before you.

Mr. GRAY. Well, at the expense of being repetitious, I am going to say, once again, how delighted I am that you would come, particu-