

and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the District government, the Board of Education, or the National Park Service. It has no facilities under its own jurisdiction, but negotiates for the use of such facilities with those three bodies.

A recent report of a citizens task force established by the Superintendent of Recreation pursuant to complaints about the conduct of the District recreation program noted—as aside from criticism of its actual operation—

* * * that recreation programs were fragmented and uncoordinated among various agencies. At the same time they (the task force) were hopeful that this would change for the better under the proposed reorganization plan submitted to Congress which placed the Recreation Department directly under the District government administration.

A major trend in public recreation organization today is to bring park management and development functions together with recreation functions. Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1968 is in line with this trend which promises improved delivery of public recreation services. And, while a large part of the District program is carried out on properties of the Park Service and the Board of Education, the problem of coordination will be much simplified by transferring District recreation functions to the Mayor.

This is exactly what Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1968 would do. All of the functions of the Board and the Superintendent of Recreation would be transferred to the Mayor, thus allowing him to coordinate this vital municipal activity with other District programs. The recreation organization would become, in fact as well as in name, an agency of the District of Columbia government.

The statutory position of the Superintendent would be abolished as would the Board itself. Of course, the Commissioner could establish an advisory board on recreation should he deem it necessary or advisable. However, since the new District Council is a body broadly representative of the community, it can obviate the need for the establishment of so many of the citizen advisory boards that appeared necessary under the previous organization of the District government.

In sum, Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1968 would provide the new government of the District of Columbia with the organizational means by which public recreation programs in the Capital City can be effectively coordinated with related District programs and activities. I urge, therefore, that the Congress permit the plan to take effect.

That is the end of my prepared statement. I would be glad to proceed—

Mr. BLATNIK. We will proceed with the Mayor.

Commissioner Washington, would you proceed with your statement?

STATEMENT OF HON. WALTER E. WASHINGTON, COMMISSIONER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Commissioner WASHINGTON. Yes, sir; I would be glad to, Mr. Chairman. I would first like to thank you for the very kind statement you made at the opening of the session. I kind of need it these days. And I also would like to say that the matter of our reorganization proposal here does not bear upon the great dedication and service of