

Recreation Board under agreement with those agencies, are the ones about which we hear the greatest criticism.

Mr. ERLNBORN. One last question. You have expressed concern about the citizen participation, as I did in my questioning. Let us measure what our concern is here. To what extent has there been citizen participation with the existing Board? How often have you had at your meetings people from these areas who have criticized poor recreation facilities; who have come to meetings of your Recreation Board to complain about the facilities that they have; to press for additional programs or for facilities?

Mr. WATERS. Once a year we have an advertised public meeting. The most recent one was held at the Sharpe Health School at 13th and Upshur Streets NW. The meeting started at 7 in the evening and did not adjourn until after midnight. More than 100 community groups were listed on the agenda. It is a rare occasion when the Recreation Board at its monthly meeting does not have individuals and organizations' representatives present as observers or participants on the agenda to make statements, to ask for service. It is customary for the Recreation Board members, with staff assembled—the superintendent of recreation, the assistant superintendent and division directors—to respond and initiate such action as can be appropriately taken within the framework of recreation policy and the limitation of budget. But oftentimes, just to give you a point of illustration, we will have citizens come in and say we should have one more classified worker at a recreation center. As a Member of the House of Representatives, you well know that we cannot add CSC staff until the Congress authorizes the position. Our inability to provide such staff is often misunderstood, yet whenever we can service the need—and in many instances the need is serviced through assignment of staff on a per diem basis. We can never move as fast within the normal framework that we find ourselves to promptly meet the changing needs of the community. Seldom is it possible to provide all the service and facilities which the citizens request. Sometimes it takes 5 years to obtain a single recreation center. Usually very much longer.

Mr. ERLNBORN. In sum, though, you would say that the ability of the public to participate in your monthly meetings has been utilized and that public participation has been part of the Recreation Board's function?

Mr. WATERS. Absolutely. The Recreation Board meeting tonight is being held in Southeast Washington at 7 o'clock so that people in the Congress Heights area may have an opportunity to attend. This meeting, I suspect, will run until 11 or 12 o'clock in the evening. All community groups within the Anacostia area have been invited to come and share in the meeting and to address the Board.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Thank you.

Mr. BLATNIK. If there are no further questions, thank you very much, Mr. Waters.

This concludes the hearing on Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1968.

(Whereupon, at 11:30 a.m., the subcommittee concluded its hearing on Reorganization Plan No. 3 and proceeded to further business.)

(Subsequently, the following letter was submitted for inclusion in the record:)