

Mr. ERLNBORN. Does the school administration have any sort of recreation, summer recreation program that they operate apart from the Recreation Board?

Mr. WATERS. Yes; to a certain extent. The Recreation Board, by contract and agreement with the Board of Education, uses certain facilities of schools, both buildings and grounds. The general concept of school planning and construction here in the District of Columbia over the years has not been developed along the lines of school-community use. The schools have been built and utilized largely for school purposes only. And in many instances they have been, although they are not now, shut down at 3:30 in the afternoon. Some, for a long time, lock up over the weekends. With a good bit of contact and persuasion, this has been overcome. In fact, on June 15, the Recreation Board will assume a large measure of the responsibility incident to the use of school buildings and grounds after the school period.

If the public wishes to use a school building or a school ground, application is made to the Recreation Board and a permit is issued. We do not grant the permit if there is any conflict with school activity, recognizing that the first business of schools is education and, consequently, there is no infringement upon school time. But after the normal school day we do service the community by providing access into approximately 120 school buildings.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Do you think that there is a valid criticism of the Recreation Board that too much of its funding has been devoted to programs in the better sections of the District, that there is not enough in the way of recreation programs in the poorer sections of the District?

Mr. WATERS. Sir, I think that is not a valid statement. I think it is a biased statement. The Chevy Chase Recreation Center, referred to by Mr. Segal, is always held up as having the best recreation program in the city. Whether this is true or not, I suppose, could be debated.

The Chevy Chase center is in a building long condemned. It will be demolished shortly after the first of July. It so happens that the Chevy Chase center is in a well-established upper middle class residential area of Washington. I do not live there. At one time I did. I went to the school in 1924. It was the E. V. Brown School. One-third of the building is sealed off because of fire hazard. Recreation has access to only one-third of the building.

The structure of our society, I suppose, is such that you likely find facilities in a more affluent area better maintained for a variety of reasons. In addition, they have programs that would not necessarily be available in other areas because the people pay for special services which do not come out of the budget dollar. And this is not referred to in Mr. Segal's report. I think upon examination, you would find facts in his report wanting, and that there is some bias so expressed.

But we have good recreation centers elsewhere in the city. They may not necessarily have the extensiveness of program, but extensiveness of program can also be measured in terms of interest of the people. Throughout the city in varying degrees we have a wide range of centers. I regret to say that some of them are not of a condition we would care to brag about. I would also say that upon examination you will find these centers to be located in public housing projects and in schools, and this classification of facilities, operated by the