

to the present OAS Administration Building which is located at 19th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. The bill would give authority to the General Services Administration to design, construct, and equip a headquarters building for the OAS out on its new 8-acre tract at the request of the OAS and with funds provided in advance by the OAS.

We believe that the National Bureau of Standards site, provided for in H.R. 16175, has several advantages over other sites that have been considered for an international center of this type:

1. It would not remove privately owned property from the tax rolls of the District of Columbia;

2. It would avoid the need to relocate families, since no residential housing is on the site;

3. Use of the site for an international center would be compatible with the proposed comprehensive plan for the National Capital prepared by the National Capital Planning Commission and with the subway plan;

4. Use of the NBS site for an international center has been personally endorsed by Commissioner Walter E. Washington;

5. The Department of State has already received expressions of interest in the National Bureau of Standards site from the representatives of several foreign countries;

6. The proposed legislation can be enacted and implemented at little or no cost to the Government, since the land is already the property of the United States. The only Government expenditure envisioned at this time would be the construction of roadways, landscaping and other minor improvements. The land itself, with the exception of the 8 acres to be donated to the OAS, would either be sold or leased to foreign governments for the construction of chanceries at their expense.

The State Department firmly believes that the proposal embodied in H.R. 16175 offers the best solution at a minimal cost to the pressing problem of finding suitable chancery locations in the District. We hope that this legislation will be enacted at the present session of the Congress.

I appreciate the opportunity the subcommittee has afforded me to present the Department's views. I will be glad to try to answer any questions concerning the proposed legislation.

Mr. GRAY (presiding). Thank you, Mr. Meeker, for a very fine statement. I want to apologize for my tardiness. I was detained and could not reach you when you started. I have gone over your statement here quickly. Let me ask a few questions if I may.

You list in your statement, certain items of improvements to the site, namely roads and other facilities and you envision the small amount of money for this. Do you have any idea of an estimate of what this would cost to make these improvements, roadways, landscaping, and other minor improvements?

Mr. MEEKER. An estimate has been made for that of \$250,000. This, of course, is an estimate based on present cost levels. I suppose it is always possible that by the time the work was done the amount might be somewhat higher, but I think that gives the order of magnitude that is involved here.