

Mr. MEEKER. No; there is no question about the ownership of the land.

Mr. GRAY. Have you placed a value on the land at all?

Mr. MEEKER. I am not aware of any valuation having been made.

Mr. GRAY. We get this bill out on the floor and this has been a subject that has been thoroughly discussed and cussed by particularly another committee of the Congress, the District of Columbia, and I am sure these questions will be asked. If we are asked in this legislation to give up property, and what is the value of it, if we are asked to take property, and what is the value of it, are we to have a plus or a debit. All these questions will be asked.

Mr. MEEKER. We will be glad to supply information on that.

Mr. GRAY. I think this would be very helpful. I am not being critical, but merely asking for information.

(Information requested follows:)

The best estimate of the value of the land presently occupied by the Organization of American States at 17th and C Streets, which Congress intended to donate to its predecessor organization in 1907, is \$11,500,000.

Mr. GRAY. I am not inferring at all it is not proper in suggesting it in the bill, but I think we should have some estimate of what the property that we are being asked to transfer is worth and also that we are being asked to receive so we can get some idea.

I would like to ask this question. Do you have any idea at this time how many chanceries might locate in this complex if this becomes law?

Mr. MEEKER. There are 16 countries that have expressed a desire to find new chancery sites. We think it is entirely feasible to develop the area within the National Bureau of Standards, sites to be allocated for chanceries in such a way as to accommodate all those if they should choose to go in there.

Mr. GRAY. How many do you think the site would adequately accommodate?

Mr. MEEKER. Well, we are clear in our own minds that it would accommodate at least 16.

Mr. GRAY. Would it be possible to supply that for the record, the number of chanceries that might locate there or would this be a delicate situation with these countries?

Mr. MEEKER. I think we can certainly give the names of the countries who have indicated this kind of interest. Some of them may, of course, wish to go elsewhere. There is another tract, privately owned on Ward Circle which may become available for chanceries. That is a much smaller tract but it is possible that a few of the 16 might elect to go there instead.

Mr. GRAY. Let me ask you this, Mr. Meeker. This is certainly not intended to be implied as a jurisdictional dispute between committees, but do you see any competition between the State Department trying to locate chanceries here and the law that was passed recently by the Congress out of another committee that would allow them to go to the site of the old Henderson Castle? Do you see any competition here between agencies trying to vie for locations or does the State Department intend to take the attitude we have made this available and we would like to have you there, or will there be an effort made to get the chanceries to locate here in order to be able to put them all together? Do you see any competition at all?