

The gentleman from New York, Mr. Grover.

Mr. GROVER. The bill refers on page 2, line 10: "that the International Organization shall devote the property transferred to its official uses," which you referred to, "including supporting facilities." Could you describe the "supporting facilities" that are involved?

Mr. MEEKER. I think as that refers to the OAS perhaps Ambassador Linowitz would be better able to respond to that question.

Mr. GROVER. One further question. We are going to be faced again with a query on the floor as to why have so many embassies, so many countries transferred their location to the requested new location.

Mr. MEEKER. I think a great part of this problem arises from the fact that in the last half dozen years a large number of new countries have become independent in various parts of the world.

We have established diplomatic relations, and at first as those countries send representation to Washington, they have rented or leased space wherever they could find it. Some of it has not been too satisfactory and they would like to get onto a firmer and more permanent footing as to a location for their chancery here.

It is not simply a question of existing chanceries needing to move for one reason or another, although in some cases where expansion is required, that is a factor, but a very large part of this problem stems from the fact that we now have diplomatic relations with 120 countries instead of 75 or 90.

Mr. GROVER. I did note, though, in reading off the names of 16 countries that you have made reference to, I believe some South American countries which have had embassies here for many, many years wish to relocate.

Mr. MEEKER. That is correct. Some of them have had missions here for a long time. Others, like the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, those are relatively new countries.

Mr. DENNEY. Mr. Meeker as you can see from the tone of the hearing we are concerned about the questioning in the future. Would this be feasible that we write into this bill a provision that in turning over this property, the 34 acres to the Organization of American States, that if any of it is allocated out to countries to build chanceries on, that the valuation of that part turned over be credited back to the United States so that we could recover some of this money?

Mr. MEEKER. The tract that is to be given to the OAS under the bill would be 8 acres and not 34. The 8 acres has been calculated as what is necessary for the OAS.

Mr. DENNEY. That is an exchange for property they already own.

Mr. MEEKER. With the thought that the OAS will naturally use it for its own headquarters and not for the purpose of making any other disposition of it.

Again, I would suggest that perhaps Ambassador Linowitz might want to comment on just what the OAS may plan to do with its 8 acres. So far as I know, there is no intention and expectation that the OAS would have land left over.

Mr. DENNEY. Where does the other 26 acres come in? You referred to 34 acres.

Mr. MEEKER. Sixteen of the 34 would be for chancery sites which would either be sold or leased by the U.S. Government directly to foreign governments. That does not concern the OAS at all.