

Mr. DUNCAN. I would like to apologize to the Ambassador, but I have to leave to attend another meeting.

Mr. GRAY. Ambassador Linowitz, we want to welcome you here and thank you for taking time from your very busy schedule to come.

Mr. LINOWITZ. Mr. Chairman, I am glad to have this opportunity to appear before the subcommittee in support of the draft bill, H.R. 16175, as it pertains to the Organization of American States.

As you know, Washington traditionally has been the site of the two principal permanent bodies of the OAS—the Pan American Union, constituting the General Secretariat, and the Council. Three weeks ago, the U.S. Senate approved the protocol of amendment to the OAS Charter which President Johnson then formally ratified.

I have since deposited our instrument of ratification with the OAS. These amendments make no change in the provisions of the present charter that the Secretariat and the Council shall have their seat in Washington.

At the 1967 Inter-American Conference in Buenos Aires, which I attended and which adopted these charter amendments, it was the Latin American countries themselves who took the initiative in proposing that the revised charter continue to provide that the location of these two bodies shall be the city of Washington.

At the same time, the need for a new headquarters site for the OAS within this city is urgent. The OAS Secretariat offices in Washington are presently scattered through five or six separate buildings in crowded conditions at a time when the functions of the OAS are expanding because of its increased responsibilities under the Alliance for Progress.

Needless to say, this arrangement is administratively inefficient and also costly, requiring the expenditure by the OAS of almost \$550,000 annually in rent, a sum which will increase to almost \$600,000 in the near future because of new programs. It is important that these OAS offices be brought together in one place with adequate space and facilities.

The proposed bill H.R. 16175 authorizes the Secretary of State to donate to the OAS for its headquarters site 8 acres of land within the area formerly occupied by the Bureau of Standards, bounded by Connecticut Avenue, Van Ness Street, Reno Road, and Tilden Street. The Department of State and our delegation to the Organization of American States consider that this site would be an excellent one for the OAS headquarters. It is a good location in appropriate surroundings, and will have good transportation facilities for the large number of OAS employees who will work there.

At the present time the OAS Secretariat has about 1,000 employees in Washington, and it is estimated that this number may well double in the years ahead.

Members of the OAS Council's Building Committee, consisting of the representatives of Peru, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Venezuela, and the United States, are highly pleased with the Bureau of Standards site, and officials of the OAS Secretariat also regard it favorably.

Transfer of land from the United States to an international organization in Washington has precedent. For example, in 1965, the U.S. Government conveyed land it had previously purchased to the Pan