

witnesses, I will shorten it up because I believe that the members of the committee would be more interested in looking at some of the maps and plans.

Mr. GRAY. We will have printed in the record at this point your entire statement and you may summarize it.

(The full prepared statement of Mrs. Rowe follows:)

STATEMENT OF MRS. JAMES H. ROWE, JR., CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL CAPITAL
PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee: My name is Elizabeth Rowe. I am Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission, which was created by the National Capital Planning Act of 1952 as the central physical planning agency of the Federal and District of Columbia Government to plan "the appropriate and orderly development of the National Capital and the conservation of the important natural and historical features thereof."

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you in support of H.R. 16175 which would establish an international center on the southern portion of the old Bureau of Standards site.

The Commission believes that the location proposed in H.R. 16175 is in all respects a most appropriate site for the development of such a center. The land is already owned by the Federal Government and would involve no displacement of private uses of any kind.

The Committee may remember that the Planning Commission first suggested a site for the Center north of Washington Circle. Legislation authorizing that location was introduced into the Congress in February 1967. While the Washington Circle area had much to recommend it, land costs were high and there would have been considerable residential and commercial displacement.

After further study with the Department of State and the General Services Administration, the Commission concluded that a portion of the Bureau of Standards site for the International Center would be the best location. Not only would it be an appropriate and convenient site but the Center would conform to plans for that area of the city.

The Proposed Comprehensive Plan anticipates rapid rail transit service to the site with a station serving the Connecticut Avenue and Van Ness Street area. It is currently estimated that service will begin there late in 1974. The station will be the terminus of the initial system authorized by the Congress. Ultimately, as part of the approved regional rapid rail system, the line will be extended into Montgomery County as far as Rockville.

The Proposed Plan suggests the establishment of an "uptown center" in this general location with high density residential development along Connecticut Avenue (the new Van Ness Center is an example of the intensification of apartment, office and commercial uses in this area) and redevelopment of the old Bureau of Standards site. Ultimately a total of 15,000 private and as many as 5,000 public employees is projected.

At the same time, the Plan endorses the retention and conservation of the basic existing low and moderate density residential character of the areas around the uptown center.

Because Washington is the capital of a great Nation, a place must be found where foreign chanceries can appropriately and efficiently carry on their work. At the same time, the Planning Commission must plan for the more than 800,000 residents of the city—for the federal establishment and for the city as the core of a rapidly growing metropolitan area.

We believe that an International Center on Federal property at Connecticut Avenue and Van Ness Street, N.W. would not only meet the diplomatic responsibilities of the Nation's Capital, but would do so in a manner consistent with the future needs of the community as a whole. The Commission therefore urges the enactment of H.R. 16175.

At this time, I would like to introduce Mr. Donald F. Bozarth, the Director of Current Planning and Programming for the Commission, who will briefly describe the Commission's preliminary studies for the proposed site. These studies illustrate only one way in which the International Center might be developed. They do indicate how the site can be developed to meet the needs of foreign governments and the Organization of American States in a manner that is consistent with adjacent existing development. Mr. Chairman, thank you