

Mr. BLATNIK. Over a period of what time, Mr. Ford?

Mr. FORD. At least in the 6 months I have been here, but Mr. Redington would have to speak for himself.

Mr. BLATNIK. Will he come up to the table, please?

Mr. GRAY. I would say, gentlemen, this is not always this dis-oriented. We had concluded the State Department people yesterday and we had some questions about the site preparation cost by GSA and this was sort of a wrap up.

Mr. BLATNIK. What was your previous position?

Mr. FORD. I have been for the past 3 years, consular general in Barcelona, Spain.

Mr. BLATNIK. Were you ever stationed in South America?

Mr. FORD. Lima, Peru. During World War, I married a Latin American girl from Lima. I was later in Caracas, Venezuela, Mexico City, and the Philippines.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Redington, would you give your title as deputy?

Mr. REDINGTON. My name is Robert Redington and I am deputy to Mr. Ford, both on our delegation to the OAS Council and the Office of Inter-American Political Affairs in the State Department.

Mr. BLATNIK. How long have you been connected with this problem of a separate and adequate site for them?

Mr. REDINGTON. Since about, I would say, May 1966 I have been involved in this.

Mr. BLATNIK. Two years?

Mr. REDINGTON. Yes.

Mr. BLATNIK. Anyone work on that before you?

Mr. REDINGTON. Oh, yes; our delegation to the OAS Council and our office in the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs have been associated with this problem for a number of years and, of course, more directly since the first bill was submitted, which I believe was in the latter part of 1965, for this international center. We have been involved with regard to the OAS aspects of this bill.

Mr. BLATNIK. Are you involved then with the other embassies, his other proposal?

Mr. REDINGTON. The chancery aspect of the bill has been handled by the administrative area of the State Department and the Office of Protocol and the Office of Legal Adviser.

Mr. BLATNIK. Then to get back now to the key point, somebody higher than in your level made a decision to combine these two problems that come under a separate office of the State Department, is that correct?

Mr. REDINGTON. When I came on the scene the bill before the Congress was for an international center in the area of Washington Circle. I was not in on preparation of that bill. It was my understanding this bill represented the position of the State Department and of the executive branch of the Government. It had the approval also of the White House as of course does the present bill. So I presume the international center was the administration's idea originating in the State Department.

Mr. BLATNIK. But your shop, between you and your predecessor, or Mr. Ford and now you, somebody in your shop made some decision on the OAS, did you not? What happened after Washington Circle?

Mr. REDINGTON. Well, the State Department Protocol Office being