

"Ambassador Sol M. Linowitz, U.S. representative to the OAS, said that the OAS favors the new plan, particularly since it now pays about \$550,000 a year in rent for offices scattered in five or six buildings in the city.

"Elizabeth Rowe, Planning Commission chairman, noted there will be a subway station at Connecticut Avenue and Van Ness Street, possibly by 1974, and said the Commission's 1984 Plan looks toward a high-density commercial and residential 'uptown center' at that intersection. The bill would be in harmony with the plan, she testified."

We are especially pleased to see that such broad and powerful support has been mobilized for H.H. 16175.

While the old Bureau of Standards site is not in our area we are in full accord with the purposes and intent of this important legislative measure, which will not displace families, businesses, job, or reduce taxes which are very important considerations. You may recall that the legislation to establish an International Center at Washington Circle was defeated because it would have displaced nearly 300 families, more than 40 small businesses, would have resulted in the loss of some 5,000 jobs, removed tax-paying property from the tax rolls, and would have resulted in the loss of some 5,000 jobs, removed tax-paying property from the tax cost the Federal and District governments millions of dollars in taxes lost each year. Besides, the cost of locating an International Center at Washington Circle, on land costing a minimum of \$50 a square foot would have run into tens of millions of dollars.

The prohibitive costs of locating the International Center at Washington Circle in human and economic terms was frankly admitted by the Federal Government. The *Washington Post* newspaper of September 14, 1967 said that:

"The State Department and the White House are considering a proposal to carve up the Bureau of Standards tract at Connecticut Avenue and Van Ness Street nw. and use a portion of it for foreign government office buildings.

"An earlier White House proposal to establish an international center in the area north of Washington Circle is still before the Congress but has little chance of passage. Objections were raised to the \$40-million price tag and the necessity of relocating businesses and low-income families."

The location of the international center at Washington Circle was also opposed for a number of other reasons. If we turn to the hearings on H.R. 14936 held by the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House Public Works Committee on July 28, and August 1, 1966, we find on page 51 the following statement by a government witness:

"This building here, which would be an office building, with commercial uses on the first floor, is an illustration of how the international department bank which Mr. Symington referred to could be located in the center of this area as well as office facilities which would provide space for other international organizations, both public and private. This area here is shown as a possible site for an international club.

"So that you would have, in the heart of this area, office facilities related to the chancery uses and the governmental operations in this area. You would have services like restaurants and stores they could go to before, during, and after lunch and after work. And there would be club facilities, where meeting rooms would be available as well as catering service."

The Chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds asked the witness this question: "Are we talking about a half billion dollar project here or \$100 million?" To which question the government witness replied as follows: "I understand your question, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry, I do not know the answer to that. I am not sure anybody in the room does." The Subcommittee Chairman then commented: "It would be reasonable to assume this would cost several hundred million dollars, though, is that not correct? I am talking about when the total plan is implemented." To which the government witness replied: "I would suspect so if you are talking about total public and private investment. It would be a significant investment in the city."

In view of these quoted exchanges, and the significant views set out in them, it can readily be seen what a vast improvement H.R. 16175 is over H.R. 14936 of the 89th Congress, and H.R. 7415 and S. 1301 of the 90th Congress.

Connecticut Avenue itself has a number of chanceries located on it, and many chanceries are located near Connecticut Avenue. This situation has come about quite naturally by means of the unforced choices of the Foreign governments, and by the freely-given consent of the homeowners and businessmen in the areas where these chanceries are located.

Our own 18th and Columbia Road area is located in a section of the city, and