

Some municipalities have avoided any contribution to downtown renewal projects by selling bonds to build a public parking facility at a cost equal to the entire municipal share. In other words, the Federal Government bears the entire cost of these downtown renewal projects, certainly contrary to the intent of the law. We have never been able to find out from HUD either how many of these so-called municipal grants-in-aid for parking facilities have been allowed or how much they amount to in money. We have gotten our information from local newspaper clippings.

As we read title V, of the bill before you, this would have to be brought into the open by continuing studies and reports, both by this committee and by the Comptroller General. We certainly are all for that.

Also, we hope this is not to be construed as opposition to public parking, only as opposition to Federal subsidies for public parking. Public parking, we believe, is an issue that should be resolved by the various municipalities, and not promoted by HUD's generosity.

With your permission, I would like to incorporate in this statement, by reference only, a longer statement on this subject by Louis E. Meyers, of Meyers Bros. Parking Systems, New York City. He is also vice president of our association. The statement can be found at page 847 of the Senate Banking Committee's hearings on current Housing and Urban Development legislation.

And I would also like to say, Senator Muskie, that last year when you unfortunately could not be there, Mr. Abraham Leibowitz, one of your Portland, Maine, operators of private parking facilities, gave a very similar statement to Mr. Meyers last fall before the Banking and Currency Committee. Nothing has come of either.

If you have any questions I will be glad to attempt to answer them.

Senator MUSKIE. Yes, I understand your concern about this problem, but I do not think it has any relevance in this legislation. I think the Banking and Currency Committee is the appropriate committee.

Mr. MILLER. Senator, only, as I say, Senator, only in title V it seems to require a continuing study and report on all of these grants-in-aid to this committee and to the Congress as a whole.

Now, we have never been able to find out how many of these there are, where they are, or how much they amount to, which had it been available would have been a valuable addition to the case we would like to make.

Senator MUSKIE. Well, if title V of this bill is enacted in its present form, it would require the continuing review, but that review would not be done by this subcommittee. It would be done by the Comptroller General and by the appropriate legislative committee. So, the Banking and Currency Committee again would be trusted with that responsibility, and also the Comptroller General.

Mr. MILLER. Wherever it comes from or to, we would just like the facts and figures.

Thank you.

Senator MUSKIE. We greatly appreciate your making the point, and it is most appropriate that it be in the record of this hearing.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you, sir.

Senator MUSKIE. I note that Mr. Benton Stalling, of the District of Columbia Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and chairman of the