

constructed pursuant to section 1 hereof and to the site referred to in section 1 hereof which shall for such purpose be held to extend to the line of the face of the south curb of Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, between Fourth Street and Third Street Northwest, to the line of the face of the west curb of Third Street Northwest, between Pennsylvania Avenue and Madison Drive Northwest, to the line of the face of the north curb of Madison Drive Northwest, between Third Street and Fourth Street Northwest, and to the line of the face of the east curb of Fourth Street Northwest, between Pennsylvania Avenue and Madison Drive Northwest.

SEC. 4. The Commissioner of the District of Columbia is authorized to transfer to the United States such jurisdiction as the District may have over any of the property delimited in the first section of this Act.

SEC. 5. In the event any privately owned or publicly owned utility located in the area delimited in the first section of this Act is required to be relocated or protected by reason of the construction on such area of any additional to the National Gallery of Art, such relocation or protection shall be at the expense of other than the District of Columbia.

Mr. GRAY. The first witness this morning is the Honorable John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, accompanied by the Honorable Ernest R. Feidler, General Counsel, National Gallery of Art.

Gentlemen, we are delighted to have both of you here this morning to testify on behalf of this important piece of legislation and you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN WALKER, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART; ACCOMPANIED BY HON. ERNEST R. FEIDLER, GENERAL COUNSEL, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Mr. WALKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much. I would like to make a brief statement in support of H.R. 16358 which is a bill to authorize the trustees of the National Gallery of Art to construct an additional building or buildings for the gallery on the site reserved for that purpose in the gallery's chartering legislation; that is, in Public Resolution No. 14, approved March 24, 1937.

When Mr. Andrew Mellon made his gift to establish the National Gallery of Art for the benefit of the people of the United States, he foresaw, as did President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, that the day would come when the gallery needed room to expand and to increase its services to the people.

They suggested that provision be made for this contingency in the legislation establishing the gallery, and the Congress wisely did so in the very first section of that law.

Over 31 years have since passed, and the growth of the gallery and of its services to the public and for their education has been such that today a new additional building is needed if the gallery is to continue to discharge properly its great cultural purposes.

I suppose that if one were to name the half dozen museums in the world with the finest collections of European painting and sculpture, the National Gallery of Art would surely be one of them and in American art it ranks with the greatest in this country; but I can vouch for the fact that none of the other five museums reached that stature in as short a period as did your National Gallery of Art.

The works of art in the original gift provided by Mr. Andrew Mellon comprised 126 paintings and 23 pieces of sculpture valued by the committees of the Congress at \$50 million. Today, the collection comprises nearly 2,000 paintings, 1,718 pieces of sculpture, and 26,958 items