

Mr. WHITENER. Thank you very much, Mr. Friedel.

Mr. FRIEDEL. There are quite a few other people who want to be heard on this bill, and I want to thank you very much for this opportunity.

Mr. WHITENER. At this point we have Congressman Fountain, of North Carolina, who is a cosponsor of H.R. 16941, to present his testimony.

We are delighted to have you with us, Mr. Fountain. I believe this is the first time I have had the privilege of having my colleague before this subcommittee. He and I do a lot of talking every day on other matters and maybe on this, too. We will be delighted to hear from you now.

**STATEMENT OF HON. L. H. FOUNTAIN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

Mr. FOUNTAIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I would like to say that I have not had occasion to come before this subcommittee, because I felt that our interests have been well protected by my colleague who has just spoken, Mr. Whitener, from North Carolina.

First, let me thank the committee for meeting and taking testimony. There have been times when we were wondering whether any of our committees had the courage to sit down and listen to this subject and to take some action.

I am here this morning to join my colleagues in urging that your subcommittee favorably report a bill which would place appropriate restrictions on the uncontrolled use of public areas in the District of Columbia. I have joined Congressman Abbitt in a bill which leaves this matter in the discretion of the authorities as to whether or not they will permit parades or demonstrations. Frankly, the bill is too weak. I think that the committee can write appropriate legislation.

I introduced another bill which had been referred, I think, to the House Interior Committee, which provides, in effect, that the Secretary of the Interior shall not permit any person to camp upon or otherwise occupy overnight any land within the District of Columbia under his jurisdiction within the areas bounded on the east by 11th Street, S.E. and N.E., on the north by M Street, N.E. and S.E., and on the west and south of the Potomac and the Anacostia Rivers, including East Potomac Park which includes the central part of the District of Columbia.

As a sponsor of legislation which I think could be helpful I am gravely concerned that without some restriction the announced plans of those who are already marching on Washington will lead to disorder and disruption of the orderly functioning of our federal government.

First, I think we should consider that public grounds are set aside for the general use and enjoyment of all of the people of this country, and to permit one group to erect tents or huts or other structures for an extended period of time denies all others the use of the property intended for all.

And let me emphasize this point: Such a practice may well plague Washington as the seat of government for years to come.