

Mr. CASTRO. Not a precise comparison; no, sir.

Mr. BROYHILL. Precise? Is there comparison in any area?

Mr. CASTRO. It cannot be precise.

COSTS OF RESTORING SITE

Mr. BROYHILL. Do you have cost figures?

Mr. CASTRO. \$71,795.

Mr. BROYHILL. Is this for dismantling?

Mr. CASTRO. Dismantling, removing and storing, and including \$200 for rehabilitating the D. C. War Memorial, and about \$5000 for repairing damage to trees and shrubs.

Mr. BROYHILL. Then you got \$5500 for the lumber?

Mr. CASTRO. Yes, sir.

Mr. BROYHILL. So your figure is a little off, is it not?

Mr. CASTRO. We have a \$5000 deposit from them which we are still holding in a trust account.

Mr. BROYHILL. You are facing litigation now about that?

Mr. CASTRO. We have no litigation now. I think the report which was made to you is inaccurate. I would know about it if there were litigation about this.

The situation is this: We determined that our costs of restoring the site were \$71,795, of which we have \$10,500 on our books.

I wrote early in August and I asked that we be reimbursed for these costs. They responded and said they would take it up with the leadership at a meeting in Atlanta in mid-August. We did not hear from them and on September 5 I reminded them we still had this obligation outstanding on our books and we wondered if they would favor us with a reply.

Their counsel called me and said he was awaiting instructions from their chief counsel in Chicago and he expected to hear momentarily.

He followed this up with a letter confirming this conversation.

Mr. BROYHILL. What do you think this asset of the taxpayers is worth? You say \$60,000 is still on the books. That is an asset. What is it worth?

Mr. CASTRO. I will not make a judgment about that.

Mr. BROYHILL. Well, I don't think it is worth a quarter.

Mr. CASTRO. That is a problem for the lawyers and the courts.

Mr. BROYHILL. Is the cost of the top soil included in the \$70,000?

Mr. CASTRO. No, sir, that is being done outside of Resurrection City considerations.

Mr. BROYHILL. You consider you would have done that anyway?

Mr. CASTRO. Yes.

Mr. BROYHILL. What will that cost?

Mr. CASTRO. I don't know what it will cost. We are still working on that part of it.

Mr. BROYHILL. So a lot of this cost would have occurred, anyway. I think the taxpayers would have been interested in that, because they understand that escapade cost several hundred thousand dollars of their money in providing police protection as well as repairs to the property itself. To learn that you would have done all of this improvement anyway, I think perhaps would relieve their minds. In fact, I might be inclined to exploit this situation a little. I think this is pretty much of a joke, and I think—