

Undersecretary of the Interior, who in fact said, in a bald-faced threat, either you take what I give you today or else it will not be dedicated in November. Two days in November are a very short period.

But you remember the words of the Romans, life is short, the heart is long. These monuments will be here, good or bad, for centuries, and it is in the interest of centuries, and with love and veneration for those Veterans, we urge you to think only in terms of the very fineness which you can offer them.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you.

Next is Peter Masters.

A VOICE: He had to leave.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: He had to leave.

Former President of the Design Council, Jim Brodniak.

MR. BRODNIAK: Mr. Chairman, I am Jim Brodniak, Local Coordinator of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Not all Veterans groups approve of the additional elements.

I also find that the Undersecretary of the Interior, his statement, if you don't accept it, you don't get it dedicated, as absurd.

I am a playwright. I would not have someone take a play that I have written and make additions to it, add

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characters, or take away.

The design is such that I can go in, and I can remember, and that is the only thing that has to be done.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Janice Connally.

MS. CONNALLY: Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, I speak as an individual member of the general public.

I wish to speak for Maya Lin's design, and as originally submitted. The figures have a kind of photographic realism that we associate with the Marine Memorial here in Washington.

Those of us who lived through the Second World War were thrilled by the photographs which inspired this work, raising the flag spoke eloquently to the emotions at that time.

But what are the memorable images from the war in Vietnam? A guerrilla shot at pointblank range, a naked girl afire, running screaming down a dusty road, American college students slain by their countrymen on the grassy slopes.

I think Maya Lin was right in going beyond these kinds of images. She gave us not realism, but abstraction. She resolved all the pain and conflict of that unhappy time in a simple message of sacrifice and quiet heroism.

I think additions to her design, in another style, from another time, would be inappropriate, and detract from the solemnity and grandeur of her design.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you.

James J. Butera.

MR. BUTERA: I am not sure if you called me, but I have been waiting all afternoon, so I will take the opportunity.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do you want to give your name for the record?

MR. BUTERA: James J. Butera.

I certainly appreciate the opportunity to discuss the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It is appropriate that the unresolved issues be debated and deliberated in an open forum such as this. It well exemplifies the basic concept that this country stands for, defending these democratic principles, and why the United States has involved itself in most of these foreign wars, and I believe this includes Vietnam.

By way of background, I should state that I am a lawyer by trade, not an architect, and thus I hope to contribute to this hearing simply as one who was involved in this war, who was involved in the efforts of the Vietnam Veterans Fund to raise the money necessary to complete this worthy project.