

MR. SCRUGGS: Just a brief statement from me.

I am Jan Scruggs, the president of the National Vietnam Memorial Fund, whose fate it has been to guide this project for three years, and it has been a certain amount of a challenge and fun at times, but I am here to discuss the poll that was presented earlier. We have had this so-called poll professionally evaluated by polling consultants, and it has been found to be very seriously flawed. I would myself like to submit the professional evaluation made of the poll and mention a representative of the polling consulting firm is here today, Mr. Richard Lobb, who is standing here. He is a man with many years of experience in literally designing and evaluating scientific polls, polls that hold up to scientific scrutiny.

One cannot state that a unscientific random sample of veterans, even those attending the dedication ceremony that were interviewed, accurately reflects the view of veterans. Because of the serious scientific and methodological problems, we can only view this as a very haphazard straw poll

Further, the very rough, small drawing on the questionnaire did such an inadequate job of depicting the various alternatives that it would be impossible for a respondent standing in a crowd of 150,000 persons intelligently to decipher the options presented to them. I will forward to the

Commission the actual artist's conceptions and the drawings which you will find quite humorous.

Perhaps most important, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that the questionnaire completely left out the major options that we are presenting here today, that of a handsome, harmonious, integrated entrance plaza to the memorial, which has obvious advantages for handicapped veterans and is not a separate memorial -- it is an integral part of the Vietnam Memorial. We feel strongly, as does our architect of record, that it does enhance the memorial.

No attempt was made, also, by the sponsors of this survey to gauge a reaction to this option, so the choices cannot be said to have been fair. In view of these facts, it is not surprising that 74 percent of the respondents chose the option that the survey sponsor favored. We cannot view this as a coincident. This survey is a fine example of how to put together a survey with pre-selected results, and we very much resent the fact that our dedication ceremony, the most historical event ever for Vietnam veterans, was used for such purposes. We think this is terrible. One thing good can be said about the survey: It is evident that Vietnam veterans do, indeed, desire to see their memorial completed with their national flag and with the sculpture that Mr. Hart designed.

We are pleased to have the support of the veteran organizations that represent many millions of veterans support the concept of the entrance plaza. I, of course, fail to see why polls should enter into this equation at all, quite frankly, but probably the best poll are the words spoken today by the volunteer who spent so many hours at the site directing people to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the reaction of many millions or the million-plus visitors who have already seen it, have come to it, and they think it works, that it is good. And with regard to polls, I would say that I have done my own little informal poll, and I think there is a consensus among Vietnam veterans that it is time to end this debate and it is time to complete this memorial and to do so with dignity, and I guess the only way to summarize my informal poll is by five or six words, which is that this baloney has gone on long enough.

Thank you very much.

MR. DOUBECK: Mr. Chairman, literally 15 seconds. There has been reference made to the compromise agreement. We wish to enter into the record a statement entitled "Statement of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Regarding Compromise Agreement", December 14, 1982, which outlines what we did and what we did not agree to in order to get the memorial built.