

It is important to reiterate that while we prefer site plan "C", we believe that both "A" and "C" respond to your October recommendations. Therefore, we are prepared to support either plan.

We applaud those involved who are moving this project along to completion by allowing the decision process as mandated by Public Law 96-297 to proceed in an orderly manner. We are particularly grateful for what Washington sculptor Frederick Hart has described as the "Solomon-like" recommendations made by this Commission last October. This Commission has shown us the way to begin the healing process in earnest. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has taken us farther along this road today. The AIA is here this afternoon to lend its support to this journey. We urge that this road be taken so that all of us can begin at last to complete this journey that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has so well begun.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

Next would be Stanley Swain, United Vietnam Veterans Organization.

MR. SWAIN: Sorry to hold you up. I was upstairs.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Could you see it upstairs? How does it work?

MR. SWAIN: It's fine.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Anyone standing in the back, I just want to advise you there is a chance to sit down upstairs and watch it on TV.

Go ahead.

MR. SWAIN: My name is Stanley Swain, and I am a Washington representative of the United Vietnam Veterans Organization. I appear today on behalf of our organization, and of David Christian, our founder. Mr. Christian is one of the most highly decorated veterans of the Vietnam War, and serves, also, as National Adjutant of the Legion of Valor of the U.S.A.

The United Vietnam Veterans Organization was founded in 1981 in order to bring together the many local organizations which Vietnam veterans have formed throughout the country. We held our first convention last summer, and already have over 16,000 members.

First of all we wish to congratulate the men and women of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for their magnificent achievement in building and dedicating the memorial. Special recognition is due to John Wheeler, Jan Scruggs, and Robert Doubeck, the founders and leaders of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. They and their comrades are the ones

who raised the money and did the work. No one should lose sight of this fact.

Secondly, our praise of the magnificent tribute which VVMF has created should not overlook the significance of the manner in which VVMF achieved its goal; that manner, involving courage, competent management, and expertise in diverse areas such as law, finance, fund-raising, public relations, design and construction, was truly a demonstration of the type of leadership possessed by Vietnam veterans. This leadership will sustain our country as it moves to the end of this century.

Notwithstanding demonstrated competence, the process of establishing the memorial was, above all, characterized by honest dealing and fair play. Contracts were entered into and lived up to. The design competition was not only the largest ever held in this country, but a model of attention to detail and procedure. The context in which the whole memorial has proceeded has been that set out in Public Law 96-297. The VVMF has continuously fulfilled its responsibilities under that law and the process provided therein for the approval of the design has provided an opportunity for all opinions to be heard.

A major element of the positive legacy which Vietnam

veterans shall leave their country in respect for our country's laws, and in obedience to which we served. With that same respect for law and for the institution which has been created by our society to consider matters of public importance, we are confident that this Commission will select the proposal that is most appropriate and aesthetic, and best honors all those who served in Vietnam.

We have examined the three proposals before you and are pleased to endorse Proposal "A", which is the preference of VVMF.

VVMF has brought this project from idea to realization, and their judgment deserves our deference. We find Proposal "A" to be logical, the best for the needs of the handicapped, and the best treatment for all of the elements which comprise the memorial.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our views.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

Are there any other representatives of organizations that would like to speak?

MR. KORIS: Yes, Combat Veterans of Vietnam.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Very good. Come on up. Would you give your name?

MR. KORIS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission my name is Kenneth Koris, Volunteer Services Coordinator with