

Fund's judgement and intuition for the idea, design, and placement of the memorial has been proven correct. Its validation is made self-evident by the overwhelming public reaction to the newest addition to the Constitutional Gardens area. We see scheme "A" as giving maximum prominence to the flag and statute, while preserving the quiet dignity of the site.

For some years now those of us in the Vietnam Veteran Organization have labored for formal recognition honoring those who served in Vietnam. Perhaps now that these men and women have been honored, we as a country can begin to address the tangible needs of the Vietnam veterans brought about as a result of their service. For Vietnam veterans of America, this is the essence of and true poetry for the Vietnam Veteran Memorial.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

MR. ATHERTON: There is one other gentleman that has indicated he is representing an organization.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Very good. Come forward.

MR. TURNER: My name is Peter Turner, and I represent the Vietnam Vigil Memorial Society. They are the guys out in the cold this winter 24 hours a day.

Unfortunately for you all, I do not have a prepared

speech, but I would like to make a couple suggestions here that haven't been discussed. Because, I guess, we do spend so much time out there, we have a pretty good idea where people are coming in and out. What has not been discussed is the fact that half of the people coming in are coming in from this side. You would have the perfect entranceway experience with Plan "A", which we totally support. However, you are going to have to do something about the other 45 percent that are coming in, with ten percent coming in this way and the other 45 percent coming in from the Lincoln Memorial. I haven't heard that mentioned before, but you are either going to have to cut this side off or have some sort of embankment and end it there, and have the people come around through there. I will leave that up to the architect. I just note you are going to have a serious entry and exit problem if this is the only side you are focusing on, because, as I mentioned, about half of the people are coming in from the Constitution Avenue side.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: By these numbers then, zero percent come in by the AIA proposal, scheme "C"?

MR. TURNER: If this is scheme "C" -- I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings, but that is not even a consideration for a lot of reasons, and I don't have the expertise to

go into it, but it is just that I think scheme "C" should not even be given consideration.

Scheme "A", again, as a concerned citizen listening to all of these knowledgeable people, it seems there is a problem with having a flag up at the apex, and that is a problem from an aesthetic standpoint, not from a patriotic standpoint, but from an aesthetic standpoint. It takes away from the memorial itself. I will suggest, however, it is not an either/or situation where the statute is located. If it is there, or in the middle, it would allow the people coming in from this side the opportunity to find out where the memorial is, because right now that seems to be the biggest question on everybody's mind coming in from the side, "where is the memorial". They would not be able to see the flag there. I don't want to get Jack mad here, because he is its biggest fan, but that is impossible to see from the side, but if you had the sculpture and flag there, I would suggest you also put a flag or something to let people know the fact it is there, or some entryway on this side.

I am not sure I am being very clear.

MR. NETSCH: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question, since we have one man here with some statistics from actual participation? Do you believe that if a pathway were devised

that generally directed most of the people to enter one way that they would do it? In other words, if they were coming from Constitution Avenue, if there was a kind of sweeping path that joined the path that is shown on all of these diagrams, would they swing around and come in if the flag were visible?

MR. TURNER: Again I think what you are saying -- There is a serious landscaping situation because people walk in straight lines. Someone mentioned the "campus syndrome". Unless you have a serious way of channeling people either that way around or this way around, people will continue to go in from the side, and again I am not advocating an either/or situation, but I think if you go entirely with Plan "A", you are not creating the ideal experience that we are all proposing. You are assuming that everybody is going to be coming in this way when, in fact, as I mentioned, about 45 percent come in from this way and 10 percent from the Mall area, and about 45 percent from the other area.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much. This, of course, describes the present experience, before the paths have been changed and built, before a flag would have been put in to guide the people where to come from, and before the tour busses were rerouted and scheduled to let people off, so

I think these figures are useful, but they may not describe the eventual condition after following designs as presented.

Any other organization that would like to speak?

(No response)

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Milt Copulos.

MR. COPULOS: Mr. Chairman, it is good to see you all again. I believe it was last October 13 when we last had an opportunity to chat.

I would like to begin by saying that all of us here, I think, in particular should recognize the very special thing that has been achieved, regardless of the ultimate outcome. As I told you last time we met, I was just a common soldier, a lot like Jan Scruggs, and I find it to be an extraordinary event that Jan has been able to bring his dream to fruition, and I think it is important to make clear that any disagreements we may have are disagreements over what are very important issues, but disagreements, I think, that are honest.

Frankly, it has been 16 months since I first became involved in this, and I can understand how Jan is as weary as I am of it, or I could understand Jan as being more weary and it has been a much longer time for him.

Be that as it may, as some of us have had last rites five times, we don't quit easy. Quite honestly, I believe