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# Minutes of meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on 11 January 1956

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., with David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Present Were:	David E. Finley, Chairman	Elbert Peets
	Douglas W. Orr	Wm. G. Perry

L.R. Wilson, Secretary

#### Minutes of previous meetings

The Secretary reported that the minutes for the meeting held in May 1955 were in draft form. He stated further that it was becoming increasingly difficult, with only one other employee, to keep up with the paper work and other routine matters between meetings.

### Dates for next meetings

The dates for the next two meetings were fixed for February 16, 1956 and March 15, 1956.

# Resignation of Wallace Harrison

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Harrison in which he stated that his doctor had advised him to give up all outside activities for a time and he, therefore, offered his resignation to be effective at a time most convenient to the Commission. The members expressed their regret that this step seemed necessary. The Chairman said that he would ask Mr. Harrison to reconsider and to attend the meetings when he was able to do so.

# Congressional Hearings for appropriations for the fiscal year 1957.

Mr. Sidney Larson and Mr. Dale Rothrock of the Division of Budget and Finance, Department of the Interior, met with the members to discuss the Commission's request for an appropriation of \$31,000 for the fiscal year 1957. The general feeling of the members was that this amount was not sufficient to meet the increasing costs of running the Commission's business. Mr. Larson pointed out that Congress had increased the limit of authorization from \$10,000 to \$35,000 by Public Law 45, approved May 25,1955. However, in the opinion of the members, this amount was not sufficient to provide the professional and clerical assistance needed to carry out the functions of the Commission. The question of requesting a further increase in the limit of authorization was discussed but it was decided to hold the matter in abeyance for the time being.

Treasury Department Dr. Jonas A. Salk Medal <u>Franklin Foundation Medal</u> The Chairman reported that a letter dated December 15, 1955,

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had been received from Mr. William Brett, Director of the Mint stating that even though the medals for Dr. Salk and the Franklin Foundation were already in production, he would like to have the comments of the Commission on the artistic merits and design of the medals. The Secretary explained the legislation was passed by Congress authorizing the medals but no funds were appropriated for them. In the meantime, the Franklin Foundation in Philadelphia and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis contributed funds so that the Mint proceeded immediately to design and produce the medals. The Chairman also read a copy of his letter of December 22, 1955, to Mr. Brett advising him that since the medals were already in production, the Commission did not wish to make any comment on the design or artistic merits, assuming that they had been approved by the contributing foundations. Exhibits A, A-1, A-2.

#### Tomb of the Unknown Soldier - World War II

Mr. de Weldon, the sculptor member of the Commission, reported on the conference he had, on January 5, with the committee appointed to advise regarding the additions to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to include an unknown from World War II. He stated that three plans had been proposed, 1) to make another tomb of the Unknown Soldier of World War II in the same area; 2) to enlarge the present monument around the base; and 3) to leave the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier completely unchanged and increase the crypt underneath to provide room for two entombments.

Mr. de Weldon stated that he expressed himself personally as in favor of increasing the crypt underneath which would not change the existing monument. He felt very strongly that that monument should not be changed in any way. The veterans' organizations were in favor of enlarging the Tomb and changing the base of the existing monument, and Mr. Dorman, an architect, had made a design showing these changes without consulting the original architect of the Tomb, Mr. Lorimer Rich. Mr. de Weldon stated further that Mr. Rich and Mr. Jones, the sculptor, had subsequently been invited to confer with the Commission at this meeting, and they would appear, with officials from the Quartermaster Corps, later at the afternoon session.

After lunch the following persons appeared before the Commission for a discussion of the proposed additions to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; Colonel Roy A. Wall, Colonel Ray Laux; Mr. Charles J. Dorman, and Mr. Lorimer Rich, architects, and Mr. Thomas Hudson Jones, sculptor. After a long discussion of the proposed plans, it was agreed that Mr. Rich would prepare some sketches which could be used as the basis for a request for appropriations from the Congress. Such sketches would show an enlargement of the crypt. with no changes being made in the original Tomb. Exhibits B, B-1, B-2..

### The Great Plaza-status

The Secretary reported that the members had agreed at the last meeting to solicit the aid of the Strauss Memorial Commission in

preserving the Great Plaza as a park, thus creating a proper setting for the memorial fountain. Such a letter, he reported, had been forwarded to Admiral Lewis L. Grauss, but no reply had yet been received.

#### Potomac River Bridge Plans

The Secretary advised the members that Colonel Thomas B. Hunter, of the D. C. Highway Department, was coming before the Commission later to ask the Commission to write a letter to the D. C. Commissioners approving the erection of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge over the south end of Theodore Roosevelt Island. The Commissioners have received such approval from the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association, and would like to have also the approval of the Secretary of the Interior and the Commission of Fine Arts in order to strengthen their position when they appear before the Congress, on hearings on new legislation. It was pointed out that the Commission had already sent a letter dated September 14, 1955, to Mr. J.N.Robertson approving in general the location of the bridge and another letter was not considered necessary.

Mr. Orr stated that he felt very strongly the Commission could not approve the bridge without knowing just what was planned for the approach roads on both the District and Virginia sides of the river, and grave concern was expressed about these approach roads.

# Conference with Colonel Thomas B. Hunter

D.C. Highway Engineer regarding the bridge status

Colonel Hunter appeared before the Commission and presented sketches for two designs for railings on the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. The members studied the drawings and recommended that certain changes be made in the design and that revised designs be submitted at the next meeting. The members told Colonel Hunter that they had expected to see revised designs of the general plans for the bridge and the approach roads on both sides of the river, but Colonel Hunter said that Mr. Robertson, the Director of the Highway Department, was out of town and he was sorry he knew nothing about the request for revised sketches; but stated he would look into the matter and every effort would be made to have the new sketches ready for next meeting.

# National Association of Life Underwriters Building 22nd and C Streets, N.W.

Mr. Lewis of Pereira and Luckman, Architects, and Mr. Donald Dawson, attorney, presented the working drawings for the proposed headquarters building of the National Association of Life Underwriters. At an earlier meeting on May 5, 1955, the members of the Commission had requested that a study model in the mass, showing the general relationships of all the buildings in the area of 22nd and C Streets, be made and shown to the members of the Commission at their next meeting. This model was not made and the members expressed their reluctance to give further consideration to the design of this building until such a model had been presented and the results of such relationships studied. Exhibit D.

#### Redevelopment Land Agency

# Latest Area C plans of Webb and Knapp

Mr. Searles and Mr. Slayton of the Redevelopment Land Agency appeared before the Commission to report that it had been possible to change the plans for Area B to comply with the suggestions made by the members to keep the vista of Delaware Avenue, Southwest, and the general plan. They also presented the plans for Area C. The members studied the Area C plan, and expressed the opinion that it would be very desirable if the railroad tracks could be put underground in connection with the development of the Tenth Street Mall.

#### Georgetown Development Program-

# Progressive Citizens Association of Georgetown

Captain Curtis Shears, representing the Progressive Citizens Association of Georgetown, appeared before the Commission for the purpose of discussing the development of a general plan for Georgetown. He stated that the Association hoped to make a study to determine the historic properties of Georgetown. He referred to legislation introduced by Congressman Thompson of New Jersey, providing for an appropriation of \$5000 to make such a study. The Chairman stated that Mr. Wilmotte, the President of the Progressive Citizens Association of Georgetown, had spoken to him, stating that he thought it was important to have the Georgetown plan conform - at least to get into the planning stage - before great highways and other projects were authorized which might cut through Georgetown and destroy part of what the citizens were trying to save. Captain Shears noted that the area of Georgetown had no planning commission of its own as yet, but that the draft for a report had been prepared, and that he would be glad to leave the draft for the Commission to study. Exhibit E.

# Governmental Center near Karachi, Pakiston

Mr. Abdula Momin, Second Secretary, Embassy of Pakiston

Pursuant to a verbal request from the State Department, the Second Secretary of the Embassy of Pakiston, Mr. Momin, was received by the members, and was given the general background on the evolution of the plan of Washington. Mr. Momin stated that his Government had decided to employ American Designers for that plan and that he had written in this connection, to several firms of architects and city planners, whose names he had obtained from the American Institute of Architects and the American Institute of Planners.

The members emphasized to Mr. Momin the importance of selecting a good firm of architects, which would, in turn, employ a

city planner and a landscape architect. It was recommended that a sanitary engineer should be a part of the design team in order to get a well developed plan. The new government center will be located about 20 miles from Karachi and will have no large industries but will be largely residential.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

L.'R. Wilson Secretary 31-44

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT WASHINGTON 25

Office of Director of the Mint

December 15, 1955

Honorable David E. Finley Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts Interior Department Building Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

Enclosed are photographs of models of a medal to be presented to Dr. Jonas E. Salk and of one to be presented to various institutions in honor of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. The Salk models were prepared by Gilroy Roberts, Chief Sculptor and Engraver for the Mint. The design of the Benjamin Franklin medal was prepared by Laura Gardin Fraser and presented to the Mint by the Benjamin Franklin Institute.

The acts authorizing both of these medals did not provide an appropriation. It was the Mint's intention to ask Congress to appropriate funds to manufacture these medals when it convened in January. The National Polio Foundation offered to pay for the Salk medal incorder to have it available during the March of Dimes campaign. It was administratively decided, as a matter of policy, to accept the funds and to produce the medals in time for the campaign. After this decision had been made the Benjamin Franklin Institute provided the funds for the Franklin medal in order that they could meet an early January deadline. We, therefore, are in the process of making these medals.

I apologize for having to ask you to comment upon the artistic merits of the designs under such circumstances. However, I am sure that you understand the pressure for these medals in order to meet the respective deadlines. It will be appreciated if you will let us have your comments on these photographs at the earliest possible date.

> Very truly yours, Sgd. W. H. Brett Director of the Mint

EXHIBIT A

December 22, 1955

Dear Mr. Brett:

I have discussed with Felix W. de Weldon, the sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts, your letter of December 15, 1955, in which you requested comment on photographs of models of medals that are to be presented to Dr. Jonas E. Salk, and to various institutions in honor of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin.

It is noted that both medals are already in process of production, and that the costs of production are being underwritten by private organisations. We assume that these respective organizations have already approved the designs of the medals, which appear, in general, to be satisfastory. If the designs had been submitted to us at an earlier date, I feel sure that the Commission would have wished to make some recommendations, particularly as to the lettering on both medals. Under the circumstances, however, since the medals are now in production, the Commission will not make any comments.

We hope in the future, designs will be submitted in time for proper consideration by the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley Chairman

Honorable W. H. Brett Director of the Mint Treasury Department Washington 25, D. C.

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EXHIBIT A-1

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF THE MINT WASHINGTON 25

December 28, 1955

Honorable David E. Finley Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts Interior Department Building Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

I have noted carefully your letter of December 22nd and your comments with reference to the medals to be presented to Dr. Jonas F. Salk, and that commemorating the Benjamin Franklin Anniversary.

We fully appreciate that presenting the photographs to you, as we did, was most unsatisfactory, but we hope you understand that there was both delay and confusion in the matter of appropriations, which forced rather unusual pressure on the Bureau of the Mint to meet deadlines which were entirely beyond our control and, actually, unanticipated by us.

You can rest assured that, in the future, we will make every effort to handle this matter of submission of designs to your Commission for more orderly consideration.

> Sincerely, Sgd. N. H. Brett Director of the Mint

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RECEIVED THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS WASHINGTON, D. C.

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EXHIBIT A-2

SUBJARY OF INTORMATICH PLANS FOR THE ENTOMEMENT OF THE WE II UNKNOWN CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION OF FINE APTS ON 11 JANUARY 1956

The Commission of Fine Arts met on 11 January 1956 at 3 p.m. to consider plans for the modification of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Present at the invitation of the Commission were Mr. Lorimer Rich, Architect of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the following representatives of the Army:

- 1. Colonel Ray J. Laux, Assistant Quartermaster General for Administration and Services, OQMG
- 2. Colonel Roy A. Wall, Chief of the Memorial Division, OQMG
- 3. Mr. Charles J. Dorman, Registered Architect of the Memorial Division, OQMG
- 4. Mr. T. Hudson Jones, Heraldic Branch, Sculptor, OQMG
- 5. Mr. Aladino Duke, Engineering Division, OCE

Colonel Wall presented to the Commission the recommendations on the entombment of the WW II Unknown which were made by the Advisory Committee to The Quartermaster General at its meeting on 5 January 1956. Veteran and Service members of the Committee had recommended the adoption of a modified tomb plan instead of the One - or Two - Tomb plans previously presented to and approved by the Commission of Fine Arts in 1949 - 1950.

Mr. Dorman described the modified tomb plan, which would extend the base of the present tomb to provide for additional crypts. The Commission reaffirmed the views expressed by its representative on the Committee that the enlarged base would change the present simple lines of the tomb, and would, therefore, not be acceptable. Mr. Dorman then presented a second plan, which, through the elimination of the steps immediately adjacent to the sides of the tomb, would provide space for four additional interments beside the present tomb and below the stair-landing level. The Commission decided that more study was needed in the development of this plan.

Mr. Rich, the Architect who designed the original tomb, in collaboration with Mr. Jones, commented that, of the two plans presented,

### EXHIBIT B

he favored the second modification, which we have called the Dorman Plan; however, he felt that other schemes should be prepared which would further explore the ideas of two members of the Commission who are Architects, Mr. Douglas Orr and Mr. William G. Perry. These members stated that the tomb should not be altered above ground; that it should stay in its present form; and that no extensions of the base or similar alterations would be looked upon with favor.

Colonel Wall informed the Commission that no funds are available for the detailed development of any plans or drawings for the modification of the tomb. In view of these circumstances, several members of the Commission recommended to Mr. Rich that, without cost to the Department of Defense at this time, he prepare several entombment plans. Mr. Rich agreed to comply with the wishes of the Commission and to volunteer his services in preparing initial plans for the modification of the tomb. He recognized the desires of the Commission to retain the simplicity of the tomb, and yet to provide for the additional crypts below ground for future interments. Colonel Wall presented the views of the vetoran organizations as expressed by the American Legion that all of the remains should be placed on about the same horizontal level.

Upon receipt of the additional drawings from Mr. Rich and after conferences between him, The Quartermaster General, and the Engineers, a new plan will be prepared for presentation to the Commission of Fine Arts for approval at its next meeting. The Commission stated that Mr. Jones should collaborate with Mr. Rich on the new tomb-plan. When a plan acceptable to the Commission has been devised, it will be presented to the veteran organizations and other Services. Budget estimates prepared by the Chief of Engineers to cover construction costs will accompany the approved plan for presentation to Congress.

Ir. David E. Finley, Chairman of the Connission of Fine Arts, was nost cooperative and very much interested in seeing that a Tomb for the WW II Unknown is prepared in a dignified and stately manner. The Connission considers the modification to be of such importance that sufficient time must be taken to insure that the modification will stand thetest of the ages.

Colonel Laux summarized the position of the Army: that modification of this tonb is a vital matter of importance to the Commission, to the Office of The Quartermaster General, and to the American public. He agreed that no sudden steps will be taken to make the change until we have achieved the simple modification desired by all.

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Mr. Polix V. de Weldon 2132 Bancroft Tlace, Northwest Washington S. D. C.

Dear Mr. de Waldon:

There is inclosed a copy of our Summery on the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on 11 Junuary 1956.

The material has been sent to all members of the Advisory Committee on the WW II Unknown Project. A copy of one of the covering letters is also inclosed.

We shall keep you and the other members of the Advisory Committee informed of future significant developments. Additional Summaries of Information may be sent informally without covering letters. While the minutes of the first Advisory Conmittee meeting have not yet been reproduced, we expect to mail a copy to you next week.

Sincerely yours.

2 Incl

1. Summery of Info 2. Coy ltr to Mr. Katehaza

K. L. HASTINGS Mejor Oeneral, USA The Quarternaster General

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EXHIBIT B-1

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16 January 1956

(Unknown WW II) (Selection)

Mr. Omer W. Clark National Director of Legislation Disabled American Veterans 1701 - 18th Street, N. W. Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

There is inclosed a Summary of Information on the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on 11 January 1956, which was attended by Mr. Lorimer Rich, the Architect of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and by personnel of this Office and of the Office of the Chief of Engineers.

While the Commission does not agree that the Jones Plan would be an acceptable solution for the entonbment of the WW II Unknown, it is collaborating with the Army in working out a plan that will embedy the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. At its initial meeting on 5 January 1956, that group agreed that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier should remain unchanged and that the second Unknown should be buried on approximately the same horizontal level as the first.

We shall keep you and the other members of the Advisory Counittee informed of future significant developments. Additional Summaries of Information may be sent informally without covering letters. While the minutes of the first Advisory Counittee meeting have not yet been reproduced, we expect to mail a copy to you next week.

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl Summary of Info K. L. HASTINGS Major General, USA The Quartermaster General

### 27 January 1956

Honorable Lewis L. Stranss Chairman Atomic Energy Commission 1901 Constitution Avenue, N. W. Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Admiral Strauss:

Mr. Finley has asked me to send you the enclosed photographs of the Great Plaza which clearly show how the Straus Memorial Fountain has been engulfed in its present inadequate setting. The members of the Jomaission of Fine Arts believe that you and other members of the Straus Memorial Association will be deeply sympathetic to their desire to see the Great Plaza developed as a park, as originally intended, and to create a fitting setting for the Fountain.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

Enclosure

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10 Pebruary 1955

Mr. H. S. Milson, Jr. P reira and Luckwan 9220 Suncet Boulevard Los Angeles 46, Califernia

Dear Mr. Wilson:

In accordance with our telephone conversation of 9 February 1956, I have carefully reviewed the proceedings of our meetings of 5 May 1955, and 11 January 1956, when representatives of the owners and of your office informally presented drawings for the proposed National Association of Life Underwriters Building, on property at 22nd and C Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.

A study of existing records indicates that, from a planning viewpoint, erection of any structure on this corner site has never been contemplated. The location of the proposed building there accordingly makes its design, and its relation to existing structures as well as to future developments that are now just beginning to materialize, a matter of even greater importance.

In the course of the discussion on 5 May 1955, the members of the Commission considered, therefore, that your presentation drawings did not cover aspects of the problem which enabled them to judge your design in relation to the broad, over-all relationships that will exist in the area. Your representative, Mr. Stanton, conveyed to the members some idea that perspective drawings, or a study model in the mass, of the general relationships of the buildings in the area would be made for your own use, and could be displayed to assist the Commission in reaching a decision at the next presentation. At the 11 January 1956 meeting, however, no studies of this type accompanied the set of working drawings, which your representative, Mr. Lewis, presented.

I have reserved time for you during the course of the next meeting at 11:30 a.m., 17 February 1956, and hope that you will be able to present the Commission with some study of this mature so that the matter can be carried on to a conclusion. I stand ready to assist you in any way I can, if you will advise me.

Sinserely yours,

L. R. Wilson Secretary

#### EXHIBIT D

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October 17, 1955 - 690

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Outline of Planning Frograms for Georgetown

October 1955

# I Complete and ideal plan:

- A. Objective: A three-dimensional plan at large scale for all future development of the community projected 20 years and reviewed each five years. (A scale model would be highly desirable.)
- B. Uses of such a plan:
  - 1. Guide individual developers so as to coordinate design and realize fullest potential of development investment, including public works.
  - 2. Provide strong basis for representations to public bodies concerning planning, public works, zoning redevelopment and renewal, parking, roads and traffic, transit, fine arts.
  - 3. Provide guide and program for suggested Georgetown Development Corporation. Coordinate all the above.
  - Develop interest and understanding in the community as an aid in winning support for specific phases of the plan, and for soliciting funds.
  - 5. Provide a tangible platform or rallying point for possible future enfranchisement of Georgetown as a semi-independent political unit.
  - 6. Crystallize divergent views on development for increased effectiveness.
- C. Content of such a plan:

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- Mritten report to community stating philosophy, essumptions, methods, bases, objectives, proposals, and descriptions of plan.
- 2. Colored map at scale of 100' per inch for whole community (about 4' x 5') and 40' per inch for "comprehensive development areas", indicating se of 1975 initially):

EXHIBIT E

- a. Housing types
- b. Street pattern (including truck routes)
- c. Off-street parking areas
- d. Commercial buildings
- e. Fublic parks and open spaces
- f. Buildings of outstanding architectural or historical interest
- g. "Comprehensive development areas" (areas requiring special attention and broad scale alteration or redevelopment)
- h. Public and semi-public buildings

# D. Information required for such a plan:

- 1. Soil, micro-climatology, and geology outlines
- 2. Population characteristics
- 3. Building inventory and classification
- 4. Automobile registration projection
- 5. Commercial floor space inventory, classification, and projection
- .6. Relationship to metropolitan areas
- 7. Pecreation study
- 8. Utility study
- 9. School pattern
- 10. Income and tax pattern
- 11. Base map
- 12. Land use map

The initial cost of such a plan would be \$35,000 to \$40,000 with an annual budget of \$15,000 to \$20,000 thereafter. Part of the cost of the plan could be recovered by providing development services to individuals,

but this would require a larger staff. A Georgetown Development Corporation ought to be able to generate a surplus which could be desoted in part to such planning. The Federal government has an interest in "neighborhood planning" and funds may be fortheoming from that source. A "benefit assessment district" can be created in Georgetown, but this requires Congressional action. A local charter would grant taxing power, but this requires a large alteration of local government organization and Congressional action. A Georgetown Development Corporation could have equity and stock capital, some of which could be devoted to planning as an incidental expense to development activities. A subscription for such a plan ought to produce funds if the idea is dramatized and well presented. A "share" purchase from subscribers might be compensated by a black and white reproduction copy of the plan at a later date.

### II A minimal approach:

- A. Objective: To prepare a sketch plan of Georgetown for some indeterminant future date, with outline designs for selected areas.
- B. Uses of such a plan:
  - 1. Focus attention on immediate problems and win support for remedial action as a basis for representation to the District Government.
  - 2. Stimulate interest in developmental approach to common problems as a procursor to possible extension of the planning program.
- C. Content of such a plan:
  - 1. A may of Georgetown pin-pointing specific problems.
  - 2. A sketch blan at scale of a bout 200' per inch showing proposed development for alloviation of principal problems, based on non Planning Commission plan.
  - 3. A series of sketches showing suggested development designs for special areas.
- D. Information required for such a plan: Principally, that which is carried in the heads of the participants but specifically, including certain traffic, land use, and housing information. Some kind of base map would be required. Possibly the National Capital Planning Commission would contribute a useable map.

This could be accomplished for the following approximate costs.

- a. Land use map, general indications for \$200.00; more accurate and specific, about \$1,000.00.
- b. Bass map, free or several hundred dollars depending on availability. Aerial photograph is desirable.

- e. Traffic information may be contributed by District Highway Tepertment.
- d. Farking plan would require population, auto registration and hand value analysis linked to commercial development plan. From a few hundred to several thousand dollars to assemble, analyze, and sketch out available information and trends.
- e. Piver front development plan could emerge from discussion with Fark Commission, but a District Economic Base Study is the only firm basis for recommendations regarding industrial land use. This is the responsibility of the Flanning Commission.
- f. Special area sketches would cost at least a few hundred dollars apiece.

Services of full professional planning consultants run around \$100.00 to \$150.00 per dism. Drafting services cost about \$2.00 per hour. Full time sub-professional technical planning services are obtainable for \$4,500.00 to \$6,500.00 per year per individual. Summertime planning students are paid about \$800.00 to \$1,200.00 depending upon housing accommodations available.

III Combination of realizable features of above plans dependent upon availability of funds in the range of \$5.000 to \$35.000 or more.



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