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NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL

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HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-SECOND CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

NOMINATIONS OF JOHN A. NEVIUS, CHAIRMAN, AND STERLING
TUCKER, VICE CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL

APRIL 19, 1972

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Committee on the District of Columbia



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(II)

CONTENTS

WITNESSES

	Page
Foster, Rockwood, resident, District of Columbia-----	13
Gibson, James, Chairman, Bicentennial Commission-----	11
Hechinger, John W., former Chairman, District of Columbia Council----	10
Nevius, John A., nominee for Chairman, District of Columbia Council--	5
Biography-----	2
Letter from Senator Mathias concerning-----	1
Press, William H., president, Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the	
District of Columbia -----	13
Tucker, Sterling, nominee for Vice Chairman, District of Columbia Council_	5
Biography-----	3

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1972

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 6226, New Senate Office Building, Senator Thomas F. Eagleton (chairman) presiding.

Present: Senator Eagleton.

Also present: Robert Harris, staff director; Gene E. Godley, general counsel; Robert B. Washington, Jr., counsel; and Sidney H. Hurlburt, minority staff director.

The CHAIRMAN. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, today we hold a hearing on the nominations of John A. Nevius to be Chairman of the District of Columbia Council and Sterling Tucker to be Vice Chairman of the Council, each for a term of 3 years expiring in February 1975. Both of these gentlemen come before the committee having already served on the Council. For Mr. Tucker, this is a reappointment to his present position while for Mr. Nevius, his return to duty on the Council after a few years hiatus. We welcome both these gentlemen.

At this point I would like to place in the record a letter I received from Senator Mathias who can not be with us this morning. This letter will be made part of the record on these hearings.

(The letter follows:)

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D.C., April 18, 1972.

HON. THOMAS F. EAGLETON,
Chairman, Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I deeply regret that a longstanding prior commitment prevents me from joining the Committee Wednesday morning to hear testimony on the nomination of John A. Nevius to be chairman of the District of Columbia City Council.

It has been my pleasure to have known Jack Nevius for many years and to have worked with him on many matters crucial to the well-being of the nation's capital and the entire Washington metropolitan area.

Jack Nevius has devoted much of his life to the civic betterment of this city. He was a member of the original District of Columbia City Council appointed five years ago, is a member of the District Board of Higher Education and a former director of the District Redevelopment Land Agency.

He is a former vestryman of his church, former president of his college alumni club, vice president of the Washington Home Rule Committee, a director of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington and a former chairman of the District Health and Welfare Council.

I would appreciate it greatly if, in my absence, you could convey my welcome to him as he appears before the Committee on the District of Columbia.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS, JR.,
U.S. Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. I also place in the record the biographical sketches of the nominees.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN A. NEVIUS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Born Washington, D.C., July 15, 1920. Parents, Avon M. and Polly S. Nevius, both deceased. Father, District of Columbia native; employed 49 years at the Riggs National Bank, vice president.

Education: Maret School and St. Albans School, Washington, D.C.; the Hill School, Pottstown, Pa., 1938; Princeton University, A.B., 1942; the American University, Washington, D.C. graduate work 1947-48 in real estate appraisal; Georgetown University L.L.B. (now J.D.) 1950.

Military service: 1943-46, U.S. Naval Reserve, lieutenant; served in United States, United Kingdom, and Okinawa with Military Sea Transportation Service.

Business experience and law practice:

1946-1948, American Security & Trust Co., Washington, D.C., real estate department property manager; diplomat, National Institute of Property Managers.

1950-55, part time private practice of law and employee in law department, Federal Services Finance Corporation, a private business concern founded 1924 which owned and operated over 25 subsidiaries engaged in finance, loan and insurance fields in more than 17 states and foreign countries with \$30 million annual volume of business.

1955-61, full time employee and officer (General Counsel) and Director part of the time, of Federal Services Finance Corporation, which had reached \$4 million net worth and net profit of \$600,000 when I resigned to return to private practice of law.

1961-67, partner law firm of Clarke & Nevius, engaged in general practice before courts and agencies, both D.C. and Federal.

1967-69, Member of District of Columbia Council and practicing law alone.

1969-71, partner law firm of Clarke, Nevius & Stratton, general practice.

1971 to present, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

1962-68, General Counsel, National Independent Automobile Dealers Association, Inc.

1966-71, Counsel for Association of Mutual Fund Plan Sponsors, Inc., registered under Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act.

Bar activities: Admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeal for District of Columbia, U.S. District Court for District of Columbia, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Court of General Sessions and U.S. Treasury Department. Member, American Bar Association and Bar Association of the District of Columbia, D.C. Superior Court.

Directorships and officerships:

Former vestryman, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

Former president, Princeton Club of Washington.

Member (1952) Republican City Committee, Alexandria, Va.

Program chairman (formerly finance chairman), Committee for Forward Looking Republicans.

Director and officer, Republicans for Progress.

Former member, District of Columbia Republican Committee.

Vice president and director, Washington Home Rule Committee, Inc.

Former chairman, Woodrow Wilson House Council, National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Former vice president and director, Community Organizations for Improvement of Neighborhoods, Inc. (COIN).

Former chairman, legislative committee, District of Columbia Health and Welfare Council (UGF).

Director, Y.M.C.A. of metropolitan Washington.
 Member, Chevy Chase, metropolitan, Federal City and Capitol Hill Clubs.
 Former Director, District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency.
 Member, District of Columbia Board of Higher Education.
 Business partnerships: Bristol Associates, Washington Investors.
 Personal: Married 1968, Sally Bet Cuninghame, 2 children: Katherine S. Nevius, 18, Theodore A. Nevius, 14 (former marriage).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF STERLING TUCKER

Personal Data: Born in Akron, Ohio, December 21, 1923. Married Alloyce Robinson, August 14, 1948. Children—Michele and Lauren. Member of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C. Home address: 6505 Sixteenth Street NW., Washington, D.C., 20012. Office addresses: Washington Urban League, 1424 Sixteenth Street NW., Room 604, Washington, D.C., 20036; and the District of Columbia City Council, District Building, Fourteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW., room 505, Washington, D.C.

Education:

Elementary and secondary education in public schools of Akron, Ohio.
 The University of Akron, B.A., 1946.
 The University of Akron, M.A., Social psychology with additional studies in community organization and economics, 1950.

Honors:

Afro-American Award for Superior Public Service, 1958.
 Superior Service Award, Midway Civic Association, 1962.
 Washington, D.C., Junior Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Young Man of the Year Award, 1963.
 The Junior Citizens Corps, Inc., 1964.
 The Fort DuPont Civic Association, 1964.
 Commander of the Order of the Star of Africa, Republic of Liberia, 1966.
 Meritorious Community Service Award presented by the Washington Business and Professional Women's League, Inc., of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, 1966.
 Award for Organizing Canton Urban League in 1953, presented 1967.
 Centennial Alumni Honor Award, The University of Akron, 1970.
 Department of State Foreign Service Institutes Visiting Lecture Award, 1971.
 (The above are in addition to numerous other citations and awards.)

Employment record:

Akron Urban League, Akron, Ohio.
 Canton Urban League, Canton, Ohio, executive director, 1953-56.
 Washington Urban League, Washington, D.C., executive director, 1956 to present.
 District of Columbia City Council, Vice Chairman; Chairman of Council's Committee on Housing and Urban Development, 1969 to present.
 National Urban League Roles have included:
 Several periods as a specialist in Industrial Relations and Leadership Development.
 Director of National Voter Registration Drives, 1964 and 1968.
 Director of Field Services, 1968-70.
 Coordinator of Planning, 1970.
 Special Assistant to the Executive Director of the National Urban League, 1970-71.

Civic activities:

National coordinator for the Solidarity Day March in support of the Poor People's Campaign, 1968.
 Vice chairman and an organizer of the 1963 March on Washington.
 Coordinator of citizens' lobby of District of Columbia residents whose united efforts led to Congress passing the bill giving District of Columbia residents the right to elect a nonvoting delegate to Congress.

Urban Coalition of Metropolitan Washington, a founder of, and former vice president.

White House Conference on Youth, Cochairman of Poverty Task Force.

Memberships:

District of Columbia Mental Health Institute (trustee).
 International Development Conference (trustee).
 Greater Washington Educational Television Association (WETA) (trustee).
 Child Welfare League of America, Inc. (board of directors).
 Sponsors of Open Housing Investment, Inc. (SOHI) (board of directors).
 Gale Associates (board of directors).
 Housing Development Corporation (board of directors).
 Council of Churches (board of directors).
 Interracial Council for Business Opportunity (board of directors).
 Political Science Academy (board of directors).
 District of Columbia Citizens for Better Education (board of directors).
 Freedom From Hunger Foundation (board of directors).
 International Platform Association.
 Mayor's Committee on International Visitors.
 Interreligious Committee on Race Relations' Steering Committee.
 Mayor's Committee on Economic Development.
 National Association of Social Workers.
 Academy of Certified Social Workers.
 Advisory Council on Vocational Rehabilitation.
 Metropolitan Jobs Council.
 District of Columbia Zoning Commission.
 Council of Governments, vice president, and chairman of its Community Resources Policy Committee.
 Chamber of Commerce Advisory Committee.
 Advisory Council of the Washington Urban Semester of American University cochairman.
 National Capital Democratic Club.
 Metropolitan Washington Planning and Housing Association.
 District of Columbia Public Health Advisory Council.
 District of Columbia Advisory Committee on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.
 District of Columbia Manpower Advisory Council.
 Diocesan Planning Commission.
 Organizer and former vice chairman of the Commissioner's Crime Council.
 Listed in "Who's Who in American Politics."

Publications:

"Beyond the Burning: Life and Death of the Ghetto," Association Press, 1968.
 "Black Reflections on White Power," Eerdmans, 1969.
 "For Blacks Only," Eerdmans, 1971.
 "Letters From Abroad," 1967.
 "Why the Ghetto Must Go," 1968.
 Contributing writer to other publications and author of numerous articles in both popular and professional publications including "The Journal of Negro Education" (1971) and "Childhood Education" (1970).
 Bi-monthly column in The Washington Sunday Star.
 Boston University has arranged for the collection of the Sterling Tucker Papers at its Mougat Library.

Travel:

Lecture tours under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State to India, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Spain and England.
 Lecture tour of Israel for the Israeli Government.
 Visiting lecturer at the Foreign Service Institute.
 Lecturer at the United States Information Agency.

The CHAIRMAN. In the interest of time we will call both of the nominees, Mr. John Nevius, Chairman of the Council; Mr. Sterling

Tucker as Vice Chairman of the Council. Will both come forward please?

Let it be noted for the record the appropriate financial statements of both these nominees have been filed with the committee.

Mr. Tucker and Mr. Nevius, we welcome both of you. If either of you have an opening statement or monolog comment you would like to give us, we will receive that at this time. First we will start with you, Mr. Nevius.

**STATEMENT OF JOHN A. NEVIUS, NOMINEE FOR CHAIRMAN,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL**

Mr. NEVIUS. Thank you.

I guess you could say I'm back here because I feel there is so much more to be done. I believe that we are all in this together and I am happy to have another opportunity, if the Senate permits, to work for the future of what Secretary Romney calls the real city. I have submitted my biography in writing. The only new things that have occurred of significance in my life since I was before this committee are: I served as a member of the Board of the Redevelopment Land Agency; I am presently Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Development at HUD; I am a member of the District of Columbia Board of Higher Education; I have been nominated for Chairman of the City Council, and I ran for Congress last year. By coincidence the two campaign chairmen in that campaign, my campaign chairman and the winner's campaign chairman are both here this morning in support of my candidacy for the City Council Chairmanship, which pleases me.

The CHAIRMAN. We Democrats always support losing Republicans.

Mr. NEVIUS. Beyond that, I have no other information to offer. I would be happy to answer any questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Nevius.

I will have some, but let us hear from Mr. Tucker first.

**STATEMENT OF STERLING TUCKER, NOMINEE FOR VICE
CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL**

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Chairman, approximately 3 years ago I stood before this committee as nominee for Vice Chairman of the City Council, District of Columbia. At that time I stated that if confirmed by the Senate I would, "serve the people with diligence and integrity, seeking always to achieve for them the highest possible quality of life." I further stated that I would, "be equally determined to keep the Nation proud of the seat of its Federal Government."

Gentlemen, I believe that my record of service of the past 3 years has been guided by that resolve. I have served in many capacities in this city over the past 15 years. While all have been challenging none has required the versatility as service on the City Council demands if effective leadership is to be rendered.

It is no secret that we in local government serve many masters and each in his way makes demands of us. Frequently we find ourselves called upon by circumstances to exercise responsibility, often without

authority, and to assume leadership where duties or guidelines are not always clear. This is both frustrating and challenging. Service in this government, indeed, is a labor of love—for the people of this city and for the people of this Nation. It is a labor which I welcome and the Senate willing, a work which I hope to continue.

In coming to the Council, I expected that my background of experience would be useful in government and I found this to be especially so. While I knew the city and its problems fairly well before coming into my present assignment, I have come to know both much better these past 3 years. I know that the quality of service I will be able to render in the future will be enhanced by the experiences I have gained during the period in office I have just concluded. If confirmed by the Senate, I pledge anew my very best efforts on behalf of all the people who live and work and visit here.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Tucker.

I have a series of questions I will propound to both witnesses. I will start off with Mr. Nevius and after he finishes, the same question will be answered by Mr. Tucker.

What is your view of the desirability of home rule for the District of Columbia?

Mr. NEVIUS. I worked for home rule for the District of Columbia for 30 years and I haven't quit yet.

Mr. TUCKER. I am 100 percent in favor of it. I am the chairman of a local coalition whose function is to help achieve home rule for the District of Columbia.

The CHAIRMAN. What is your theory of the role of the Council as it relates to the Mayor and to the Congress?

Mr. NEVIUS. I think the Council should function as a respected advocate on behalf of the city and its people with the Mayor, with the Congress, with the White House, and with one another. That is the main function of the Council as I see it. Specifically with respect to the Mayor and these other elements such as the Congress, to support their efforts on behalf of the city whenever I can. When differences occur to try to iron out those differences privately and only if that's not possible to bring out my open opposition to whatever the Mayor or the Congress may feel on a given issue.

Mr. TUCKER. The Reorganization Act of 1967 does set forth some duties which are fairly specific as relates to the Mayor and the Council. We have responsibility for certainly carrying out those duties as set forth in the Reorganization Act of 1967. I believe it is our job to provide a forum for the people to give expression to their views and concerns.

Under the old government the three Commissioners found themselves in hearings much of the time. They found themselves trying to execute and regulate and be advocates and to also be hearing panels. I think we in Council can relieve and have relieved to a considerable degree the function of having to deal with a lot of public concerns and to develop a public position. I believe that our job is to cooperate in government, obviously, or government can come to a standstill. I think it is important for the Council to function in terms of its authority in relation to the Mayor and his job in relation to his authority, and, therefore, there are independent roles also which I think can be carried out in a symphony of cooperation.

With reference to the Congress, I believe that our job, it seems to me, is to—once we in city hall have agreed on legislative programs, agreed to budgeting, and so on, I believe it is our job to support a united front to an extent possible of the city's position on the Hill. Therefore, I see for the Council a larger role perhaps than we have carried in the past in helping to carry the city's message to the Hill.

The CHAIRMAN. Very good.

How do you view the city's problems in regard to removal and disposition of solid waste?

Mr. NEVIUS. Mr. Chairman, there isn't a large city in the Nation that doesn't have a very severe problem on this score. Finally, the American public has come to recognize what the city governments have been wrestling with for a number of years and now it is a concern of the whole Nation. As to the solution for the District of Columbia, the last time I was on the Council, Kenilworth was converted from an open dump to a landfill. That is the kind of approach I would like to see with respect to the specific situation today. I am told that Councilman Willard has made arrangements for Mr. McGinty, who is the man in charge of solid waste disposal, for the District of Columbia government to take a Churchill Fellowship in England for 3 months to study how London, England, takes care of this problem in their country. I'll be very interested to see his report when he gets back.

Mr. TUCKER. I generally support the direction of the program of the city at this point. I think that we've got to have a combination of approaches to this question. The city has to maintain a capacity of its own to deal with its problem while I think we also may need to look further into the whole question of contracting for some of these services. I think it's still uncertain as to what shall be the extent of this relationship. Basically, however, I think that the Mayor with his probative authority has to have the major hand, it seems to me, in defining and executing whatever program this is. I think perhaps this is one area where there may have been a little bit over involvement I think of the Council, in my view, on this question. I think that more confusion is there right now than there ought to be.

The CHAIRMAN. What is your position with respect to a parking tax?

Mr. NEVIUS. Again, Mr. Chairman, you hit one that is a major problem for every significant city in our Nation. Only about three big cities, to my knowledge, have come up with really good answers to this. I am talking about Indianapolis and Jacksonville and a couple others. It is the problem of the flight of the tax base to the suburbs, beyond the city line, and in our case it is not just a city line, it is a constitutional line. It's a real problem. It is a dilemma. We all know that we are seeking for solutions to it that are fair, both to the center city and to those who live in the suburbs. The city, in our case, needs the money of the suburbanite who commutes but by the same token we don't want to drive that suburbanite out beyond the Capital Beltway forever and his place of employment out there.

It is a problem of balancing these equities. I have not had a chance to look at this particular regulation and I'm not certain where I would come out. I understand from the legal point of view it's supposed to be a pollution measure. It certainly is moving into what is clearly a

revenue problem. So I am inclined to think I would be opposed to it but there is one thing I am certain of and that is that if it doesn't have to go into effect until early 1973. There is no need to pass it in early 1972.

Mr. TUCKER. I am in favor of the parking tax as a concept. I am not in favor of the measure which is presently before the City Council. My concern, while it is to some degree for the question of the suburbanite, my principal concern here obviously is for the District, and the District as it relates to some other aspects of our economy and some of the other questions related to population. I believe that it is possible to construct a program which is fair, both to the city and to the suburbs and one which will deal with the problem of pollution as it is supposed to, with the problem of revenue being a secondary issue, as it should be under the act, on which we would be taking action in the Council.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have any ideas with respect to the further utilization of Robert Kennedy Stadium?

Mr. NEVIUS. I would like to have a ball team. I would like to have several other types of franchised sports, like soccer, also using Robert Kennedy Stadium, and I would like to come up with any other possible use we can find to bring revenue to help support the bonds that the taxpayers have guaranteed for that edifice.

Mr. TUCKER. I believe that we have been very unimaginative in the use of that magnificent facility. Contrary to the view of Bob Short, I think it's very well located and I believe that our Armory Board has not performed, I think, with imagination with reference to that facility. I think that the Redskins over the years—I am not just talking about last year when they were successful, but the many lean years when thousands of us went out Sunday after Sunday—provided excitement even while they were losing. I believe that sports can be an important factor in the environment, in terms of motivation, aspiration, and pride the community takes in itself. I would like to see this stadium put to considerably more productive use. I legally believe it is possible in many ways, not only for professional sports but also for the use of the community in the metropolitan area and many things that take place in that stadium. I think we can bring the people back in a lot of ways, start using that stadium, even in the off season.

The CHAIRMAN. That leads me to a related question. What is your view as to the need for and placement of a convention center?

Mr. NEVIUS. I haven't studied the proposal for the convention center, Mr. Chairman, but I think basically it is a very good idea. There are a lot of economic problems connected with it and this has to do with the viability of the proposal that I would have to study before I could express an opinion. In principle, I would like to see a downtown convention center in our city.

Mr. TUCKER. The convention center, Mr. Chairman, is desperately needed in the city. We are losing a lot of major conventions we could very well have and ought to be getting. As to location, there might be several. I think that my personal preference at the moment would be near the Union Station area. It would be easier to locate it there and I think once it is there the question of the access will be taken care of. I think it will become a center of the city once it is there. I think it need not move necessarily to the center but it can be a center because

there will be a great deal of activity. However, in what might be called a more desirable location is something that I think I could support, to the extent that it doesn't dislocate a great many people, both business and families.

I am deeply concerned about this problem because the problem of this location is so great already that I would want to be very careful as to what new problems would be posed by us in locating it in an area downtown.

The CHAIRMAN. What is your view as to the need for an Office of Consumer Affairs?

Mr. NEVIUS. I think an Office of Consumer Affairs in the District is a very good idea and I hope it will remain in the District of Columbia budget for 1972-1973.

Mr. TUCKER. I think that the question of a consumer system, as we've seen it develop over the past several years, is probably one of the most important issues that is facing us. For the District of Columbia to have a minimum program and even a more minimal effort in my opinion than we have is ridiculous and shameful, particularly with the nature of our population and the size and the problems that we have already. I would personally like to see on the part of the city administration a greater effort and a greater enthusiasm for developing a strong and very comprehensive program. I would like to see us establish a program which had in effect commissioners who would examine these things—staff that could look into some of these questions. We simply have now a registration with little or no investigation of complaints, and with no encouragement of complaints. So my feeling is the city's position on this whole question is a considerably less than adequate one at the time.

The CHAIRMAN. What is your position with respect to the building of the Three Sister's Bridge?

Mr. NEVIUS. I am opposed to it, Senator.

Mr. TUCKER. And so am I.

The CHAIRMAN. What is your position with respect to public ownership or subsidization of the bus system?

Mr. NEVIUS. If I'm not mistaken, we are the largest, metropolitan population area in the United States that is still struggling along with a privately owned municipal transportation system. I think the only one of comparable size in the Nation that remains besides us is Houston, Tex.

I feel that the experience of cities all across this Nation has demonstrated the overhead cost of operating such a system has gotten to the point in our economy where the fare box and the rider can no longer support public transportation and that there has to be taxpayer help as we've done in so many other areas. I think the time has come for that in the District of Columbia.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you aware, Mr. Nevius, of the fact that Montreal, which is a sizable community, is going to hold the line or attempt to, at a 30 cent fare, both for surface and subsurface transportation on any integrated system? That is, the bus surface system feeding into the subway system? If I'm right on those facts, at such time as we reach the point of an infeeding subway, doesn't it become almost imperative that the bus system be operated in a way as to be a feeder into that subway system?

Mr. NEVIUS. Absolutely, and if I recall from 2 or 3 years ago, that is exactly the way the Metro plans it.

The CHAIRMAN. I really have two questions for you, Mr. Tucker.

Mr. TUCKER. I would simply say that private ownership of public transportation makes about as much sense today as private ownership for public schools would make. It is a necessity and the fare can't continue to go up. I might favor a subsidy where perhaps ownership is different. Right now there is no confidence in the present ownership of the public transportation system. I believe that the city ought to move as quickly as possible to purchase the transit system.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, gentlemen. We appreciate your presentation. You may stand aside.

Mr. NEVIUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TUCKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Our next witness is Mr. John W. Hechinger, former Chairman of the District of Columbia City Council.

STATEMENT OF JOHN W. HECHINGER, FORMER CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL

Mr. HECHINGER. Senator Eagleton, I am very pleased to be able to testify on behalf of the appointment of John A. Nevius as Chairman of the City Council for the District of Columbia.

As the first Chairman of the City Council, it is my hope that men or women who are selected for the Council bring as much distinction to this legislative area of our city government as can be found in order that there will be a constant demonstration to the congressional opponents of home rule that the citizenry of Washington need and must have in municipal government fully elected officials. John A. Nevius is such a man.

He has a distinguished record of service to the city based upon his often-expressed philosophy as a native-born son he owes the city the kind of dedication that he has demonstrated.

I served with Jack Nevius on the City Council and can attest to the sincerity and earnestness with which he approaches every problem. His thoughtful, deliberate manner which demonstrates his lawyer's mind, is overshadowed by his sympathetic heartfelt reactions to the human side of problems in every issue.

John Nevius has been a member of the Home Rule Committee since 1948, shortly after he left the Navy, in which he served during World War II. It wasn't the popular cause among Republicans in those days, he was really in the avante-garde of his party.

As I am now running for Democratic National Committeeman, I certainly can't say much for his choice of political parties, and as a Yale man I must admit that he got off with a bad start by graduating from Princeton University. Other than that, however, there are many fine things to say about Mr. Nevius.

For example, his recent experiences as Commissioner of the Redevelopment Land Agency has given him an insight to the redtape that is snarling our city's rejuvenation which will stand him in good stead as Chairman of the City Council.

Jack and I were members of a small group of concerned citizens after we left the City Council and he is one of our principal lobbyists

that brought the delegate to the House of Representatives. He later ran for this office and his popularity is attested by his gathering 25 percent of the vote in a city that has somewhat less than 15 percent Republican registration.

The Chairman of the City Council is a backbreaking job, no matter that it is officially labeled part time. I would like to insert a plug here, that the salary is only \$10,000 a year and that in order to attract men of the quality of Jack Nevius, it should be raised to at least \$25,000, and the Vice Chairman and other members of the City Council relative to that.

I am sure Mr. Nevius will take this job at quite a sacrifice, a sacrifice that his successors may not be dedicated to taking. I urge you to review this matter.

When Jack and I were appointed in 1967, President Johnson urged us to act as if we were elected. He did this in his 1967-69 term and I can tell the committee and all who are listening that I don't know what they expect from Jack Nevius, but it is my bet that we're going to get as sensitive and as responsive leadership of this job reflecting the needs and aspirations of the black majority of this town and all the citizens as has ever been seen before. I urge his prompt confirmation as Chairman of the City Council.

Although I am not the official spokesman for the nomination of Sterling Tucker as Vice Chairman, I cannot leave without a hardy endorsement of my former tennis partner and esteemed friend. I urge Sterling Tucker's confirmation as Vice Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, very much.

I think you have, as you always do, made a useful and significant contribution to the matters heard before this committee.

On the matter of salaries of the Council, after appropriate deliberation we will introduce later this week or early next week the bills to raise the salaries from \$10,000 for the Chairman and \$7,500 for a member to \$20,000 for the chairman and \$15,000 for the member. Thank you.

Mr. HECHINGER. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. James Gibson, Chairman of the Bicentennial Commission.

We welcome you.

STATEMENT OF JAMES GIBSON, CHAIRMAN, BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Mr. GIBSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It's my honor and privilege to testify this morning in behalf of the reappointment as Vice Chairman of the City Council of Mr. Sterling Tucker. I am very interested in seeing Mr. Tucker reappointed. I think it is in the best interest of the activity which lies before us in preparing the city to host the Nation's Capital's activities in the bicentennial.

As John Hechinger earlier alluded to the need to bring greater cohesion and to cut redtape in our redevelopment processes, Sterling Tucker has undertaken in his role as Chairman of the Housing and Urban Renewal Committee of the City Council efforts that lead toward that objective. The time fuse is fairly short on that. I think that the

homework is done, I think that the current study which you initiated at the end of last year which is fairly near to completion on the urban renewal process in the city is indicative of the kind of depth which Mr. Tucker has achieved in improving the machinery, trying to gage the machinery of our city, which is going to be extremely tested during these next several years. I feel it is important that work continues. I think that the frequently thankless task of receiving from all ends, congressional ends, from the bureaucracy and from citizens, the contending issues and interests which they want represented in the development of the city is not something which one can do strictly from intuition. It is not something which one can do strictly from feeling. It requires some knowledge and it requires some knowledge of an extremely elaborate bureaucracy and a very difficult process, very diffused process spread among a number of agencies and levels of government and done in a setting which we have not achieved, and, therefore, again, a matter of threading through and understanding the neighborhood level issues and priorities which are placed before the City Council. I think the background that he brings to this task at this time is essential for the completion of the major projects which we have argued for our bicentennial celebration.

In addition, I think he understands and appreciates that in doing so, in preparing our Nation's Capital for the celebration of our 200th birthday that to do so in this city and in this particular time in the central city, which is still reeling from the rapid growth of the suburbs over the last three decades, when it has to redefine its role because of the dislocation of economic functions which have followed the residential patterns into the metropolitan area. I think that the irony of a city without home rule being asked to host the celebration of the freedom of our great Nation—I think that many of the difficulties inherent in a 71-percent black city with its particular 200-years' history on this continent and in this respect to be asked in effect to be host and trustee to this great celebration will require a synthesis of local and national factors that I believe Mr. Sterling Tucker has. He has national experience in social problems and in social problem analysis. He has a great depth in local knowledge in terms of community level leadership as well as officials of the government at all levels. If for no other reason we should have Sterling Tucker reappointed so that he can continue this work and he can help from the vantage of the City Council to bring the coherence we must have to achieve the bicentennial quality in the city which we desire by 1976.

There are many additional things I could say about Sterling Tucker. He has a long and honorable history in this town. There are many people who could be here today to testify in behalf of his reappointment because of the work he has marshaled and headed in this town means to their lives. I won't try to say all those things. I won't try to represent all of those people. But I do allude to those because they are a matter of record and I do very much pinpoint this particular area and this particular responsibility which he has borne and will continue to bear if he is reappointed as essential to our objectives.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Gibson, for a most articulate presentation.

Is there anyone else here who would desire to testify with respect to the nominations of either Mr. Nevius or Mr. Tucker?

Mr. PRESS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Would you give us your full name and whom you represent?

**STATEMENT OF WILLIAM H. PRESS, PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION
OF OLDEST INHABITANTS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Mr. PRESS. My name is William H. Press and I appear today as the president of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia.

This organization was organized here on December 7, 1865, and worked for the betterment of this community and has continued to do that and still does that in its 107th year. I appear today to recommend very highly and strongly the confirmation of these two gentlemen, Jack Nevius as Chairman of the City Council and Sterling Tucker as Vice Chairman. I have known Mr. Tucker since he arrived in Washington and worked with him on many projects for the good of this community. I've known Mr. Nevius for a long time. I, too, am a native here, and I knew Mr. Nevius' father who was a distinguished banker. So without delaying the hearings in any way, I would just say that I very enthusiastically recommend that both of these gentlemen be confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Press. We appreciate your presentation.

Yes, sir. Would you please come forward and give us your full name and such organization as you may be representing?

**STATEMENT OF ROCKWOOD FOSTER, RESIDENT, DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA**

Mr. FOSTER. My name, Mr. Chairman, is Rockwood Foster. I have served for many years in the Foreign Service, appointed from the District of Columbia. I have now left the Service and I was Jack Nevius' campaign chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. That is not an organization—that is a nonorganization.

Mr. FOSTER. It is a very honorable nonorganization, sir.

I am not running for election but I am running the elections in the District as member of the Board of Elections. I appear today, however, in my capacity as private citizen in order to lend my support to Jack Nevius' nomination, and particularly to speak for all the many hundreds of Republicans and others in this city who voted for him for delegate and if I may as a graduate of Harvard University, associate myself with both Yale and Princeton—our congratulations to Mr. Nevius.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Foster.

Anyone else?

Apparently no one else wishes to testify. Therefore, that will conclude the nominations. I will vote for the nominees and they will be polled out from the other members of the committee.

(The hearing is now adjourned.)

(Whereupon, at 10:58 a.m., the committee adjourned.)

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

IN SENATE,
January 14, 1907.

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE,
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
LANDS BELONGING TO THE
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,
AND THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE,
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
LANDS BELONGING TO THE
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
JANUARY 14, 1907.

STATEMENT OF ROCKWOOD POSTER, ASSISTANT DISTRICT
SOLICITOR

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