

Committee of the Whole, Seattle City Council
Public Hearing, September 9, 1975
Event 3084 – Nemesio Domingo

NEMESIO DOMINGO: My name is Nemesio Domingo and I'm representing the Alaska Cannery Workers Association. I'm the director of the group. Our mailing address is 416 8th Ave South. Alaska Cannery Workers Association has concern on this resolution because almost 1/4 of the residents of the International District are active and former cannery workers. Alaska Cannery Workers Association is also the publisher of the International Examiner, the community paper for the International District. ACWA takes a very cynical outlook on a domed stadium, primarily because it is not a project designed to really improve the quality of life for the citizens of Seattle. It is basically...a project that is geared to quick profits in terms of sports events. In terms of the District, it is a physical white elephant in the community because a great portion of the time - that the stadium is not going to be used - it will be a practically gigantic ghost town right next to the District. And in some parts of the year, the shadow of the domed stadium will physically cover the International District. [Revelle whispering in background periodically]

We have a great concern of the traffic and would like to present four points that are in the, um, Resolution. They're under the assumptions that we feel that these four points need to be highlighted. The four points talks about, you know, preserving the residential character and small business of the International District. These are the two things that make the International District unique. Umm., If the International District cannot continue as a residential area of Third World people - and in many senses a regional shopping area for Third World people - that the District will be lost and what we'll get, essentially, is a plastic commercial area that is pretty much signified by the Pioneer Square. In its relationship to how to preserve the International District, the point comes in concerning how do you raise money for the District? We certainly don't want to make the International District something that will be a monkey on the backs of the citizens of Seattle.

One proposal that we have which is not mentioned in the Resolution is that there be a special admission tax levied on the stadium so that the users of the, umm, domed stadium can help finance some of the projects necessary to maintain the International District. And this relates to what Doug Chinn related to and that is that there needs to be funds allo--allocated to the District in terms of operations and programs. Then we think that admission tax, which I believe is within the realm of the County, or the City Council here could--could help implement.