

**Buildings Ruled Too Tall**

# Watergate Towne Hits New Snag

The long delayed Watergate Towne on Rock Creek Parkway was held up again yesterday when

the newly appointed Fine Arts Commission said some of the buildings were too tall.

The Commission said none of the buildings in the plan would be less than 120 feet above ground and two would be nearly 160 feet, and it recommended substantial reduction in the size.

## HISTORY

The project has been on-again, off-again for months. Earlier this summer the Towne received what was then called "final approval" by the District Zoning Board

and the Fine Arts Commission.

But last week the District's licensing officials asked that the Fine Arts people be given the plans for final review before the project began.

The Arts group, which has new members since the last decision was made, turned the plans down.

Watergate Towne is sponsored and financed by an Italian organization.

## UNUSUAL

It would be one of the most unusual of any project in the

District. Each apartment has a different design. The buildings include "villas" or basement apartments, with unusual frontage design. There are balconies on nearly all apartments.

Commission members called the design a "fresh and imaginative approach to use of this river site," but said its height would seriously impair the National Park System.

The Arts group has authority to turn it down, under a special act of Congress for approval and disapproval of design and construction adjoining public parks and monumental areas.