

**The original documents are located in Box J30, folder “West Front Extension: General, 1965-1973 (7)” of the Gerald R. Ford Congressional Papers, 1948-1973 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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COMMITTEE OF 100 ON THE FEDERAL CITY  
1307 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

June 7, 1972

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
The House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

*Show to  
New White*

*sent copy 6-12-72*



Dear Representative Ford:

The structural, technical, and economic feasibility of restoring the West Front of the United States Capitol has been established by a report from a respected professional firm. The choice between extension or restoration now depends upon evaluation of the relative importance of providing more working space versus protecting the Nation's number one landmark and preserving the last remaining, visible, original wall with its sweeping Olmsted terrace.

The Committee of 100 believes that the protection and preservation of this essential part of the Nation's cultural heritage far outweighs the need for office space within the Capitol and recommends that there be no further expansion or modification of the Capitol. The Committee also believes that no further construction of any kind should be undertaken on Capitol Hill until a comprehensive plan has been drawn up by a qualified professional or professionals, accepted, and put in force.

Therefore, we urge you to support the Senate provision in the Legislative Appropriations bill (H.R. 13955), which would limit action for any extension to preliminary planning only.

Very truly yours,

Grosvenor Chapman, FAIA  
Acting Chairman

BOB CASEY  
22ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

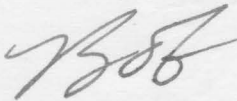
*Capital Extension  
MA*

June 1, 1972

Dear Jerry:

For your information, this is the reply  
I received from Senator Hollings to my  
proposal.

Regards,



Bob Casey



ERNEST F. HOLLINGS  
SOUTH CAROLINA

OFFICES:

SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
202-225-6121

FEDERAL BUILDING, COLUMBIA, S.C.  
803-254-7636

FEDERAL BUILDING, SPARTANBURG, S.C.  
803-585-8271

41 EAST BAY, CHARLESTON, S.C.  
803-723-5211

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 30, 1972

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

LEGISLATIVE: CHAIRMAN  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LABOR, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND  
THE JUDICIARY

COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE: CHAIRMAN  
AVIATION  
MERCHANT MARINE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

POSTAL OPERATIONS: CHAIRMAN  
COMPENSATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT  
BENEFITS

The Honorable Bob Casey  
Member of Congress  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Casey:

I have your letter of May 24 with the proposed amendment language. Let me first clarify points made in your letter. I do not believe the Capitol Building Commission has made a valid decision to extend the West Front. This was one of the main issues of the Mansfield Amendment voted down by the Senate. It was made clear in debate that the five conditions to be met by the Praeger Report were met as of the time of the report and, therefore, there was no congressional directive or authority to proceed with final plans. It was after the passage of time and the ensuing inflation of over 14 months without a meeting that the Commission hurriedly met in secret and determined that the conditions could not be met. Therefore, the Senate disagrees with the first premise that a decision has been made to extend the West Front. By way of emphasis one of your House conferees stated emphatically that the decision had never been put to the Congress for either extension or restoration. And obviously since it never reached the Congress it could never have reached the Commission.

Secondly, the concern of definitive designation as to the use of the new space only goes to the heart of the original question whether to restore or whether to extend. A general plan for space use should be approved by both Houses and wherein office and committee rooms, etc. are included in a wing, obviously the Speaker would decide for the House wing and the Rules Committee would decide for the Senate wing. But this is not in issue. What is in issue is whether or not additional space is needed in the Capitol, whether it be individual offices, restaurants or otherwise. Neither of us can tell because the question has not been put but it is apparent from my contacts that the majority



The Honorable Bob Casey  
May 30, 1972  
Page Two

of the Congress or at least the Senate would desire these additional offices and facilities for a reasonable cost at a location outside the Capitol building.

With these observations I would adhere to the compromise language worked out in the conference which appeared to win approval from some of the House conferees; i. e. that the Architect proceed with plans and estimates for both restoration and extension and then a decision based upon the plans and estimates can be made once and for all by both Houses. Your language forbids this. Your language proceeds as your letter that the decision has been made for extension and then without mention of restoration, you go off on the tangential problem of assigning space. These of course are just my feelings in response to your proposal and I think the Committee of Conference should meet on the various proposals and then make the decision.

But let me once more object as strenuously as I know how to the procedure thus far. To increase the pay of a policeman on the beat at the Capitol, we require in our Government a public hearing in both bodies, plus three readings in the House and three readings in the Senate. Here, in an attempt to disfigure a national shrine and expend approximately \$100 million at a cost per net square foot of at least \$368, we are not to have any hearings, any debate and only one reading. In 1955 Speaker Rayburn inserted this Commission approach in the Appropriations bill asking that the center section be extended to include restaurant facilities in conformance with a 1905 plan. The space needs have materially changed since 1905 and practically everyone opposes additional restaurant facilities in the Capitol building. But when we raise these questions, the leadership takes cover behind the leadership. We are expected to cast a vote of confidence for the leadership rather than vote on the fundamental of either restoration or extension. I resent and resist this twisting of our responsibilities as members of Congress.



Sincerely,

  
Ernest F. Hollings

EFH:mwh

BOB CASEY  
22ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOME ADDRESS:  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN: LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS  
LABOR-HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:  
2353 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

ALAN R. ERWIN  
ASSISTANT

May 24, 1972

*Capital Extension*

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
Minority Leader of the House  
H-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D. C. 20515



Dear Jerry:

For your information, I attach a copy of a  
letter I have written to Senator Hollings, together  
with copy of the language I have submitted to him.

Sincere regards,

*BC*  
Bob Casey

BC/gw

Attachments

BOB CASEY  
22ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN: LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS  
LABOR-HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

HOME ADDRESS:  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:  
2353 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

ALAN R. ERWIN  
ASSISTANT

May 24, 1972

The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings  
U. S. Senate  
432 Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Hollings:

Since the Capitol Building Commission has made the decision to extend the West Front and since one of your objections to extension is the lack of definitive designation as to the use of the new space, I respectfully submit an amendment as a substitute for the amendment which you placed on the Legislative Appropriation Bill.

The language which you placed in the bill and the alternative language which you submitted is unacceptable. I repeat, there is no necessity for additional preliminary plans, and I also state there is no necessity for additional hearings on restoration.

I sincerely urge you to seriously consider the language I attach, as I feel it would give the Senate complete control over plans for that portion of the Capitol on their side. Also, when final plans are complete, the Congress as a whole will say "yea" or "nay" by either appropriating or refusing to appropriate the necessary funds for construction.

Sincerely,

Bob Casey

BC/gw

Attachment



EXTENSION OF THE CAPITOL

No funds available under this appropriation shall be used to initiate construction of said project; for any preparation of the building site or the surrounding area for construction; or for any vacation of the building, until specifically approved and appropriated for by the Congress: Provided, there shall be prepared and submitted to the Congress plans and estimates of the cost of the extension of the West Front of the Capitol, and provided further that the architect shall prepare the plans and the proposed use of the space provided by the extension of the West Central Front of the Capitol under the direction of The Speaker, insofar as the House side of such extension is concerned, and under the direction of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, insofar as the Senate side of such extension is concerned; no extension shall proceed until final approval of such plans and appropriation of funds for such purpose by the Congress.







Washington, D.C. 20515  
May 24, 1972

Honorable Mike Mansfield  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.



Dear Mr. Majority Leader:

In response to your request, I submit the following information regarding our needs for proceeding with a solution to the problem of the West Central Front of the Capitol:

1. We need to proceed with working drawings and specifications for the extension so that final estimates of cost can be accurately determined; in preparing these drawings, revisions will be made to the existing completed preliminary drawings so that present thinking on the part of those concerned with the utilization of space can be incorporated into the plans.
2. We do not need funds for construction at this time. When funds are requested for such purposes, after the drawings are completed and accurate cost estimates are obtained, the Congress will, of course, have the opportunity for full hearings.
3. We will, simultaneously and in-house, make every effort to obtain additional corroborative cost estimates for the restoration as previously proposed in the Praeger report, so that a cost comparison can be made if that appears to be appropriate in the future.

C

O

P

Y

Hon. Mike Mansfield  
May 24, 1972  
page 2

A procedure such as I have outlined above is based upon my own intensive investigation of the subject matter and reasoned professional opinion, and is offered in an objective effort to arrive at a solution that will best serve the interests of the people of the Nation. I stand ready to be helpful in any way that I am able.

Cordially,

George M. White, FAIA  
Architect of the Capitol

GMW/mhh

cc: Members of the Commission for Extension of the  
United States Capitol



The Speaker's Rooms  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

April 25, 1972

*West Front file*

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
House Minority Leader  
H-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gerry:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the letter which you received from Wilfred J. Gregson. I think the opposition among architects to the proposed changes to the West Front has been exaggerated and perhaps even greatly misrepresented. I am pleased to have this evidence of professional support.

Sincerely,

*Carl*  
The Speaker



CA/Vtk

cc: Mr. Wilfred J. Gregson, F.A.R.A.  
Society of American Registered Architects  
622 Carnegie Building  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

WEST FRONT OF THE CAPITOL

1. Statements relating to Congressman Stratton's remarks on the floor March 16, 1972; the action of the Commission March 8, 1972; and the restoration and other reports.
2. Resolution of the Commission March 8, 1972, containing the Commission's decision and the law relating to the restoration study and the extension of the Capitol.
3. Law authorizing the extension of the central portion of the Capitol (east and front fronts), under direction of the Commission created therein.
4. Editorial from The Evening Star, March 10, 1972.
5. Memorandum from the Architect to the Commission, March 6, 1972.
6. Background of George M. White, Architect of the Capitol.



NOTES ON WEST FRONT OF THE CAPITOL

(If Congressman Stratton tries to stop planning through amendment or other device on the Legislative Branch Appropriation Bill, 1973)

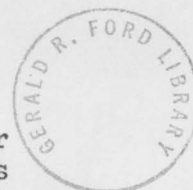
1. Stratton stated in his speech on the floor of the House, March 1972, that he had introduced three separate bills to accomplish his objectives. These bills were referred to the Committee on Public Works. Why is he now attempting to circumvent the regular legislative processes through an appropriation bill?
2. The House debated the West Front problem fully on September 19, 1969, and agreed to appropriate \$2,000,000 for the final planning of the extension. Mr. Stratton's amendment to stop this was defeated by the House (C. R. H8232, September 19, 1969).

As far as the House was concerned, we could have proceeded then, more than 2 years ago, with the extension, which would have saved the escalation that has resulted in the meantime--some \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

It was only after the insistence of some members of the other body that the provision for a so-called restoration study was agreed to in conference and the extension was postponed until the restoration study could be received and studied.

Any escalation of the cost of the extension, therefore, can be laid at the doorstep of the restorationist. It is not the fault of the Commission or the Architect of the Capitol.

3. The Commission composed of the Speaker, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader on this side; the President of the Senate, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader on the Senate side; and the Architect of the Capitol, is about as representative of the Membership of the Congress as anyone could hope for. Yet, the gentleman from New York (Mr. Stratton) would characterize the Commission as some kind of a monster who goes about making arbitrary decisions. He even wants the Commission abolished. Well, I think we can all draw our own conclusions from such explosive oratory. If he can't have his way, then all is wrong.
4. The Commission has done precisely what the Congress mandated in the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act of 1970. The charge that we have done otherwise is absolute nonsense.



Five conditions were spelled out in the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1970, which restoration must meet in order to be considered by the Commission. If all those conditions were not met to the satisfaction of the Commission, then the law said the Commission shall direct the preparation of final plans for the extension as already approved by the Commission. This is exactly what the Commission has done.

5. Before our meeting of March 8, 1972, the Commission had received from the Architect of the Capitol the restoration report, the Architect's comments on the report and on his effort going back over a period of more than a year, and his professional judgments relating to the west front problem. At the meeting, we had available the Preliminary Plans and estimates of cost for the extension, and all the background information, including hearings, debate on the floor, committee reports, etc., during the last several years on this question.

Near the close of the Commission's discussion, Congressman Ford, read aloud each of the 5 conditions specified by the law and asked Architect White to comment on each one. The following resulted:

- "(1) That through restoration, such west central front can, without undue hazard to safety of the structure and persons, be made safe, sound, durable, and beautiful for the foreseeable future;"

Mr. White stated that the wall can be made relatively safe and sound. However, he said, there is grave doubt that it can be made durable and beautiful except with continued and substantial maintenance.

Representative Ford then read the next condition:

- "(2) That restoration can be accomplished with no more vacation of west central front space in the building proper (excluding the terrace structure) than would be required by the proposed extension Plan 2".

Mr. White said that this was a true statement.



Representative Ford then read the following conditions:

- "(3) That the method or methods of accomplishing restoration can be so described or specified as to form the basis for performance of the restoration work by competitive, lumpsum, fixed price construction bid or bids;
- "(4) That the cost of restoration would not exceed \$15,000,000;"

Mr. White stated that conditions 3 and 4, taken together, cannot, in his opinion, be said to be capable of attainment.

Representative Ford then read condition (5):

"That the time schedule for accomplishing the restoration work will not exceed that heretofore projected for accomplishing the Plan 2 extension work: Provided further, That after consideration of the restoration report, if the Commission concludes that all five of the conditions hereinbefore specified are met, the Commission shall then make recommendations to the Congress on the question of whether to extend or restore the west central front of the Capitol."



Mr. White stated that condition (5) can be met.

Mr. White said that after a great deal of study and soul-searching, he concluded that he should not think in terms of "preservation" or "extension", but he should think in terms of what would best serve the people of the Nation. The building has a tremendous meaning for the people because it is to them a symbol of democracy and a Temple of Liberty. He said that the great mass of the people who view the Capitol see it as a beautiful scene and are unconcerned with the theoretical priorities of importance of various exterior features. Their money, he concluded, would be best spent by proceeding with the extension rather than trying to save the one remaining old wall.

Mr. White was asked if he had complete jurisdiction of the building and full responsibility for it, would he restore it or extend? He said without hesitation that he would extend the old west central front.

6. George M. White, Architect of the Capitol: Mr. White was highly recommended to the President for appointment in his present position by the American Institute of Architects. He is a professional engineer, a professional architect, as well as a member of the bar. When he was appointed as Architect of the Capitol, he was an officer of the AIA. His leanings were toward restoration as a result of his association with the AIA. After studying the west front problem for more than a year and after his experience as Architect of the Capitol, he felt compelled in the interest of sound judgment and good planning to recommend the extension, rather than the so-called restoration.

7. Mr. Stratton mentions the cost of the restoration study, of approximately \$245,000. It should be remembered that the Congress also spent some \$266,000 for the extension study, preliminary plans and estimates of cost, which were also before the Commission when its decision was made and which have been before the Congress since 1967. Every Member of the Congress was sent a copy by former Speaker McCormack.

8. Mr. Stratton says the Commission's action was wrong "no matter what the 1970 appropriation bill may say". The gentleman is well known as a "law and order" man. Why then would he expect the Commission to ignore the very precise provisions of the law?

9. Mr. Stratton says the restoration report "totally demolished all the contentions that had underlain the long pressure for the West Front extension".

Mr. White, a professional architect and engineer, says that is not true. He says "The structural adequacy of the west wall is, in fact, indeterminate. As many experts will declare that it is stable as will say that it is unstable. But even those who support the position of stability admit to the indeterminacy of the loading computations and, therefore, say that the wall should be strengthened as an insurance against the probability of a possible failure." Even the restoration report recommends structural restoration.

10. Mr. Stratton seeks to prove that all five conditions are met by the restoration study. Even those who prepared the restoration did not believe this was true. Example:

In the transmittal letter accompanying the restoration, it is stated:





"\*\*\*the restoration can be accomplished within the general guidelines set forth by Congress as a directive to the Commission for Extension of the Capitol."

Page IV of the report under "Findings" it is stated

"Restoration methods can be specified to form a basis for performance of the work by competitive lump sum construction bids."

Page 15 of the report:

"A cost plus contract with an 'upset price' seems more realistic and could be obtained on a competitive basis."

Commenting on the first quotation: The Congress enacted five specifics -- not general guidelines.

Commenting on the second quotation: No where in the report is there an explanation of how this can be accomplished. Just a bare statement.

Commenting on the third quotation: This is, in effect, an admission that those responsible for the restoration agree that a lump sum bid procedure cannot be utilized -- they recommend a cost plus procedure for the restoration work.

11. Mr. Stratton admits that the cost of restoration could go over the \$15,000,000 limit established by the Congress, but he attributes this to escalation. The restoration report in explaining the cost estimates (page 15) says: "Unit costs include an escalation factor."

12. Mr. Stratton does not like what the Commission has done. Well, that is no surprise. And we respect his right to differ, but in so doing he should look at all the facts, and not just those that suit his purpose. The decision on the West Front was made and should have been made on the facts, the evidence, and sound judgment -- not upon intemperate, wild and misleading statements such as we have read of late in the Congressional Record and in at least one local newspaper.

13. The decision of the Commission was a wise, thoughtful, and reasonable decision. It was made in an atmosphere of calm study and consideration, with each Member of the Commission taking part and expressing his views. Still, there was a unanimous vote in favor of going ahead with the extension.



14. Hideaways -- Mr. Stratton says there is no reason to extend the building except to have "secret hideaways" in the Capitol. When the East Front was extended, the House portion was put to use for official business of the House -- there are no hideaways in that extension. Why should he try to mislead the public and his colleagues into thinking the West Front extension would be given over for hideaways for House Members?



Additional Responses to Stratton's Remarks



1. Remarks have been made by Stratton concerning the proposed extension transforming the Capitol into a super Howard Johnson's, inferring that the appearance of the building would change and that the interior would provide services of that nature. Such demagoguery obscures the facts and speaks only to the emotions. A model of the extended building has been in Statuary Hall for several years. Can anyone see any Howard Johnson appearance in that design? The old plan to provide visitors' facilities in the Capitol has long since been abandoned in favor of the new Visitor Center in Union Station. The exterior of the extension will be a faithful continuation of the classical design of the Capitol with which everyone is familiar. The renderings of the Associate Architects' proposal are and have been available for everyone to see and clearly indicate the enhancement of the magnificent appearances of the building.

2. Remarks by Stratton and Randall regarding the Washington Post editorial state their agreement that the editorial was "well reasoned and reach valid conclusions." On the contrary, the editorial was intemperate, emotional, inflammatory, and largely non-factual.

The editorial characterizes the Commission's unanimous decision as "an arrogant maneuver of dubious legality." Even Mr. Stratton admits the legality of the decision when he says, "It is true that the provisions of Public Law 91-145 do not require the Commission to justify their decision or to make any report to anybody."



The editorial criticizes the design itself, when even the American Institute of Architects in their testimony stated that the design was not in question. To the contrary, some of the most respected designers of classical architecture in the Nation have viewed the proposed design as an improvement to the West Central Front.

The editorial states that "William Thornton's softly elegant sandstone facade is the only visible link to the Capitol's beginnings." What sandstone? The original sandstone has been covered with layer upon layer of gray paint since 1819. Plate #1 in the Praeger report clearly shows the cracked, messy and miserable appearance of the so-called elegant stone once the paint is removed.

The editorial says that the Olmsted terraces will be ruined. Not so. In fact, changes to them will hardly be noticeable and, instead, they will become more beautiful and broader in vista than they are now. Even the American Society of Landscape Architects (and Olmsted was a Landscape Architect) reviewed the plan and had no objection to it. The perspective of the dome will be enhanced by the design strength of the new pediment that will be incorporated over the extended portico.

So, it is rather obvious that the last vestige of objectivity was wrung from the editorial policy of the Post in this instance.



3. Mr. Randall remarks that "As I recall, all the Architects of America were against this change and all the historians were against it." That is a blatant exaggeration to say the very least. A substantial number of highly respected and nationally prominent architects have testified and expressed themselves in favor of the extension. The official position of the American Institute of Architects is by no means representative of all of the architects in the Institute membership, and certainly doesn't represent ~~the unanimous~~ ~~or~~ even the majority opinion of all of the registered architects in America.

It is also interesting to note that the Architect of the Capitol was a Vice-President and Member of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects and he also opposed the extension until he became aware of all of the facts involved, and he has now changed his position and supports extension.

4. Stratton remarks that the Praeger report confirms that the Capitol is not going to collapse. Not true. The Praeger report clearly says that in their opinion collapse is not imminent, but because of the indeterminacy of the loading forces, no one can be certain of that, and therefore the wall should be strengthened and repaired. The Praeger report does not say there is no danger.

5. Stratton says the report states that "We can fix it up so that the cracks are gone." Not true. The report states clearly that the wall will continue to crack even after their recommended procedures.

6. Stratton says the existing bracing is a "public relations gimmick."

Not true. The visible bracing is primarily at the portico and the Praeger report agrees with the necessity for the bracing to prevent the collapse of the portico. The portico is not the wall.

7. Detailed study indicates a thicket of unknowns that can never be adequately penetrated. An attempt to restore the wall will lead to endless maintenance and repair at no predictable cost limitation, as indicated by the Praeger report itself in its factual portions.



COMMENTS ON THE WEST FRONT OF THE CAPITOL DISCUSSION



There are some basic facts about which there is no substantive or actual disagreement.

Fact No. 1: The wall must be strengthened in some way, either by an attempt to do so in its present position or by a positive method of buttressing through additional laterally placed walls that will be part of an extension. Prior information and the Praeger report substantiate this.

Fact No. 2: The existing wall, if an extension is provided, will not be disturbed. It will remain in place and continue to be partially exposed on the interior as is the old East Front original wall.

Fact No. 3: The design of the extension is a virtual reproduction of the existing appearance, is not a point of contention by architects, and, if anything, is viewed by experts in classical architectural design as an improvement and an enhancement of the basic appearance of the Capitol from the west. This results from the original design having been related to the old, small, low dome, rather than the existing dome which was added in 1865.

Fact No. 4: The proposed extension will reproduce the existing classical details at all points where it can be done, as was done on the East Front, in order to recreate the original design insofar as possible.

Fact No. 5: The existing terraces will be disturbed only in part and will be extended in accordance with the extension of the wall itself, and, again will reproduce the existing design insofar as possible.

Fact No. 6: The wall in question totals only 20% of the total exposed existing walls of the Capitol; thus 80% of the exterior of the building will not be disturbed in any way.

#### Positions

The building itself -- the Temple of Liberty -- is the shrine to the American people and a symbol of freedom and democracy throughout the world. The dome, the wings, the steps on the East Front, the general appearance of the building as a unified whole, form the shrine that lives in the minds of people everywhere. The 20% of the exterior wall is not the shrine but is being made to appear so on the part of those whose sentiment brings them to believe that any disturbance to the building at all is a disturbance to the shrine. History tells an opposite story. There have been 15 separate and distinct changes to the bulk of the Capitol and countless changes and alterations, numbering into the hundreds, on the interior of the building. (See the attached list.) The history of the building has been one of continuous change and growth as the Nation has changed and grown and the needs of the Congress have similarly changed and grown.





At one time in the history of the Nation this single building housed the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and all of the offices of all of the Senators and all of the Congressmen. The space demands gradually forced the removal of the Supreme Court in 1935, the Library of Congress in 1898, and the working offices of the Senate and the House into buildings which now form the Capitol Hill complex. There remains in the building, especially on the House side, the dire need for space in proximity to the legislative chambers for those supportive functions of the legislative process that are a necessary part of the legislative process. Not only do the separate branches of the legislature require supportive offices of their own, but the legislative process has evolved an increasing number of joint conferences and other joint Senate-House activities which are requiring increasing volumes of space close to the legislative chambers. These space requirements are increasing year by year.

The Praeger report contains a number of ambiguities which are resolved in favor of strengthening the existing wall in its present location instead of buttressing with the walls of an extension. There is no doubt that the wall can be strengthened in some fashion in that way. The body and substance of the report do not substantiate some of the opinions which are presented in





the form of conclusions to the report. A great many ambiguities are apparent as one reads the details and supportive information in the report itself. These unknowns and ambiguities can lead to a quicksand of entrapment in terms of the final possible cost of restoring the wall in place.

A real question exists as to whether an expenditure of \$20 to \$30 million to repair the wall and get no usable space in return is a valid expenditure of the taxpayers' money. The differential between the cost of \$20 to \$30 million and the cost of the extension, which is estimated at \$50 to \$60 million, will result in the creation of 270,000 gross square feet of space so that the citizens of this Nation will receive something tangible in return for the expenditure of their funds. We must concern ourselves primarily with what will best serve the people of this Nation. The needs of their elected representatives to enable them to properly conduct the legislative process will be served through the expenditure of public funds to provide necessary space. The people will not be served through an expenditure of 20 or 30 millions of dollars which will result in a repaired, patched, painted wall in the Capitol of the greatest Nation on earth.

If we were discussing the building as a whole, the people undoubtedly would want funds to be spent for the preservation of this Shrine of Democracy. But we are not talking here about the building as a whole. We are talking merely

about a piece of wall. That kind of sentiment for this living, working building, which is part museum and visited by millions of Americans every year, and yet is an active legislative business building, must be placed on the scales against the tremendous need of the legislature for additional space. Our space needs will not diminish. They will increase as the population increases. We will need space in many ways, one of the most important of which is space in proximity to the legislative chambers.



The need for continued repair and maintenance to the wall, if it remains in place as an exterior wall of the building, is indicated by the Praeger engineering report. The report states: "If the wall voids were filled, exterior cracking would be inhibited by transfer of stress to interior portions of the wall. Generally, however, cracking will continue to occur as the wall adjusts to temperature change." The report then recommends a series of control joints which, in theory, are supposed, but not guaranteed, to control the locations of the cracks. The report then says, "With these measures future cracking should occur at a much reduced rate." This is an example of numerous places in the report where an opinion is expressed which leaves the decision-makers to live with the result in the event that the opinion is not borne out by future experience.



It will be noted that the report does not say future cracking will not occur, nor does it say that future cracking will be reduced. It merely says future cracking should occur at a much reduced rate.

The question of condensation on the interior wall is examined in only a very cursory fashion in the report and leaves a great measure of doubt as to the future needs for maintenance and repairs as interior plaster may become damaged from moisture. The appendix to the recent AIA report indicates a similar concern for this problem.

Continuous painting of the wall forever into the future is recommended by the report, not only as a preservative method but also to cover the blemishes that will occur in the wall as a result of the repair process that the report recommends. The report says, "Effective grouting will require relatively close spacing of drill holes vertically and horizontally in the upper walls." These holes are recommended to be drilled every three feet in both directions. "This would increase the need for the replacement stone required to obtain an unflawed surface, possibly in excess of that available in the East Front storage piles. For Scheme 2 this would mean either some proportion of artificial replacement stone, or toleration of a pock-marked appearance on a fairly regular grid. Under Scheme 1 this would be of no concern, since patch marks would be painted over."



The report also says, "Future damage by intrusion of moisture or paint can be controlled by the application of a stone preservative and joint sealer, a procedure which should be applied at regular intervals."

The report thus indicates that the restoration will, at the very best, be a patchwork process with a result that requires continuous maintenance *and* painting in order for the appearance to approach the level of being satisfactory.

This is further indicated in the report by the statement that the removal of the existing paint, some of which is an eighth of an inch in thickness, cannot be accomplished without damage to the existing stone. "The experience gained by the test removal of paint, performed as part of this study, indicates that it will not be possible to completely remove the paint and paint stain without some damage to the stone."

The report contains several gratuitous opinions of a non-engineering nature, which indicate a bias that raises the question of credibility with regard to the report's conclusions, especially since the broad conclusions do not appear to follow the weight of the evidence in the body of the report.

The following quotations are examples: "Some stones are so far eroded that they should be replaced but others, less seriously deteriorated, may be tolerated as an expected sign of age.....The Capitol is 150 years old and should give an impression of venerable age, not a crisp newness that denies its



historical background." Neither of these are opinions in areas in which the engineering firm holds itself out to be competent. They appear to be added in order to rationalize some preconceived notions.

The body of the report states, "A cost plus contract with an 'upset price' seems more realistic and could be obtained on a competitive basis." Thus, although the report concludes that a competitive lumpsum fixed price construction bid or bids can be obtained, it nevertheless recommends that the work should not be accomplished on that basis.

The entire question of cost is thus left wide open. Even the AIA report says, "It would be impossible for anyone at this stage of study to guarantee a total restoration cost." The AIA report also says, "The Task Force recognizes that the work could be done on a competitive, lumpsum, fixed price construction bid or bids but we feel that competitive bidding for a fixed profit and overhead with the work being done on a cost basis should be strongly considered in the same way the White House restoration was accomplished."

The appendix to the AIA report makes the following statement in commenting on the Praeger report: "There is discussion of the thermal effect of solidification of the wall resulting from the infilling of the present cavity. This phenomenon is not discussed in great detail other than to conclude that there is to be predicted a 10% net increase in heat gain or heat loss in the solidified wall. The effect of this change in the internal structure of walls of such comparatively great mass bears closer investigation. It is probable that it will require an



interval of time, perhaps 18 months to 2 years, for the long stabilized thermal and hydro balance within the walls to become re-established, responsive to modifications resulting from the filling of the voids and the possible modification in the reverse permeability or breathing property of the wall."

In further comments, the appendix to the AIA report states, "It is difficult to accept the categorical statement that 'condensation in the wall will not occur during the summer'. The computations on Figure 22 do not appear to indicate a recognition of the lag in change of the ambient humidity and temperature of the internal wall volume and it is possibly questionable whether the conclusions shown thereon are valid without further experimental documentation."

Thus, we find that even those who support the Praeger report find serious difficulties in accepting it in toto. If one examines the report objectively and one recognizes the responsibility of having to face the future with the possibilities of future difficulties and additional repairs and, thus, additional costs, in the saving of the wall, then one must conclude that these factors will lead the Congress into a thicket of unending difficulties with the wall if it should decide to try to save it. That circumstance, coupled with the dire need for space, will bring any dispassionate, reasonable man to the conclusion that an extension to the United States Capitol will best serve the people of this Nation.

1. Original North Wing
  - Begun 1793 - completed 1800
  - Senate occupied from 1800 - 1859
  - House occupied 1800 - 1801
  - 1804 - 1807
  - Supreme Court occupied 1801 - 1935
  - Library of Congress occupied 1800 - 1824
2. 2-story Senate Chamber converted to separate stories with Supreme Court occupying lower chamber from 1810 - 1860
3. Temporary structure at location of Statuary Hall occupied by House from 1801 - 1804
4. South Wing completed in 1807  
Occupied by House 1807 - 1857
5. Both North and South Wings (and 1-story wooden connecting passageway) burned in 1814 and reconstruction was completed in 1819
6. Central Section begun in 1818 and completed in 1829  
Library of Congress occupied 2 stories of West Central Front 1824 - 1897  
Altered to provide office spaces after 1897
7. Present Senate and House Wings begun in 1851 and completed in 1859
8. Old low dome replaced from 1856 - 1865
9. West Central section reconstructed following a fire in 1851
10. Terraces on North, South and West added 1884 - 1892
11. Gas explosion in old North Wing required reconstruction in 1898
12. Original wood roof construction replaced with steel and concrete in 1902
13. Cast iron and glass skylights over both Chambers from 1857 - 1949  
replaced from 1949 - 1951
14. East Front extension constructed 1958 - 1962
15. Interior alterations and changes 1958 - 1972





COMMISSION FOR EXTENSION OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

March 8, 1972

Whereas Public Law 91-145, approved December 12, 1969, provides:

EXTENSION OF THE CAPITOL

For an additional amount for "Extension of the Capitol", \$2,275,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commission for Extension of the United States Capitol as authorized by law: *Provided*, That such portion of the foregoing appropriation as may be necessary shall be used for emergency shoring and repairs of, and related work on, the west central front of the Capitol: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$250,000 of the foregoing appropriation shall be used for the employment of independent nongovernmental engineering and other necessary services for studying and reporting (within six months after the date of the employment contract) on the feasibility and cost of restoring such west central front under such terms and conditions as the Commission may determine: *Provided, however*, That pending the completion and consideration of such study and report, no further work toward extension of such west central front shall be carried on: *Provided further*, That after submission of such study and report and consideration thereof by the Commission, the Commission shall direct the preparation of final plans for extending such west central front in accord with Plan 2 (which said Commission has approved), unless such restoration study report establishes to the satisfaction of the Commission:

(1) That through restoration, such west central front can, without undue hazard to safety of the structure and persons, be made safe, sound, durable, and beautiful for the foreseeable future;

(2) That restoration can be accomplished with no more vacation of west central front space in the building proper (excluding the terrace structure) than would be required by the proposed extension Plan 2;

(3) That the method or methods of accomplishing restoration can be so described or specified as to form the basis for performance of the restoration work by competitive, lumpsum, fixed price construction bid or bids;

(4) That the cost of restoration would not exceed \$15,000,000; and

(5) That the time schedule for accomplishing the restoration work will not exceed that heretofore projected for accomplishing the Plan 2 extension work: *Provided further*, That after consideration of the restoration study report, if the Commission concludes that all five of the conditions hereinbefore specified are met, the Commission shall then make recommendations to the Congress on the question of whether to extend or restore the west central front of the Capitol.



Whereas, the restoration feasibility and cost study and report of Praeger-Kavanagh-Waterbury, Consulting Engineers-Architects, made pursuant to Public Law 91-145, was considered by the Commission at its meeting of March 8, 1972, in Room EF-100 of the Capitol; and



Whereas, the Commission established to its satisfaction that all five of the conditions specified in Public Law 91-145, relating to restoration, cannot be met: Now, therefore, be it resolved,

That the Architect of the Capitol is hereby directed to proceed with the preparation of final plans for extending the west central front in accord with Plan 2 heretofore approved by the Commission.

Carl Albert  
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman

Spive J. Lyons  
President of the Senate

Wes Boyer  
Majority Leader of the House

Mike Mansfield  
Majority Leader of the Senate

Gerald R. Ford  
Minority Leader of the House

Hugh Scott  
Minority Leader of the Senate

James M. White  
Architect of the Capitol

LEGISLATION GOVERNING EXTENSION OF THE CAPITOL PROJECT

Public Law 242, 84th Congress, as amended by Public Law 406,  
84th Congress, Public Law 88-248, 88th Congress  
and Public Law 91-77, 91st Congress



"Extension of the Capitol: The Architect of the Capitol is hereby authorized, under the direction of a Commission for Extension of the United States Capitol, to be composed of the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the Architect of the Capitol, to provide for the extension, reconstruction, and replacement of the central portion of the United States Capitol in substantial accordance with scheme B of the architectural plan submitted by a joint commission of Congress and reported to Congress on March 3, 1905 (House Document numbered 385, Fifty-eighth Congress), but with such modifications and additions, including provisions for restaurant facilities, and such other facilities in the Capitol Grounds, together with utilities, equipment, approaches, and other appurtenant or necessary items, as may be approved by said Commission, and for such purposes there is hereby appropriated \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended, and there are hereby authorized to be appropriated such additional sums as may be determined by said Commission to be required for the purposes hereof: Provided, That the Architect of the Capitol under the direction of said Commission and without regard to the provisions of section 3709 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is authorized to enter

into contracts and to make such other expenditures, including expenditures for personal and other services, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act and, prior to any appropriations being provided for extension, reconstruction, and replacement of the west central portion of the United States Capitol, to obligate such sums as may be necessary for the employment of nongovernmental engineering and other necessary services and for test borings and other necessary incidental items required to make a survey, study and examination of the structural condition of such west central portion, to make reports of findings, and to make recommendations with respect to such remedial measures as may be deemed necessary, including the feasibility of corrective measures in conjunction with extension of such west central portion."



# The Evening Star

With Sunday Morning Edition

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FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1972

## White's Right Vote

When the late J. George Stewart was the non-architect Architect of the Capitol, that anachronism was widely blamed for Stewart's persistent campaign to extend the west side of the U.S. Capitol rather than patch up its eroded surface.

"Fire Stewart!" was the battle cry in those days, the argument being that no real architect would for a moment support such a project.

Thus, upon Stewart's death in 1970, his replacement predictably turned out to be an impeccably credentialed professional. George M. White, the new man, was not only a respected former vice president of the American Institute of Architects, he had personally shared — before taking on the new job — that outfit's objections to any alteration in the dimensions of the Capitol. So what's happened?

Well, after more than a year's day-to-day exposure to the needs and realities of the Capitol, Architect White joined the House and Senate leadership this week in voting unanimously to proceed with an addition that will reproduce precisely the architectural features of the present worn-out west front and provide, in the process, a lot of space for some essential facilities the Capitol now lacks.

And, also predictably, a few strident

voices now are calling for White's resignation. But most of the steam by now has gone out of this tired old refrain, and it's high time. White's decision was not, as the charge goes, a cave-in to political pressures. It springs from a wealth of exposure to facts he did not have a year ago, and which most of his critics still do not have.

Among the things he came to realize, White says, was that "the Capitol is not a museum." Indeed it is not. It is the workshop of Congress. As such, the Capitol's entire history during the past century and a half has been one of constant change and growth, accommodating to Congress' changing needs and paralleling — if one chooses to look at it that way — the growth of the nation itself.

The marvel is that this sequence of changes — some, in the earlier days, involving drastic architectural modifications—invariably has added to rather than detracted from the allure and symbolic magnificence of the beloved old building, while keeping pace with Congress' urgent space requirements.

That tradition was scrupulously upheld in the controversial extension of the Capitol's east front a dozen or so years ago. It will be, as well, by the project on the west which White rightly endorsed this week.





Washington, D.C. 20515

March 6, 1972



MEMORANDUM TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION FOR  
EXTENSION OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL:

The primary purpose of this meeting is the consideration by the Commission of the January, 1971 report of the firm of Praeger-Kavanagh-Waterbury, Consulting Engineers and Architects, relating to the feasibility and cost of the restoration of the West Central Front of the Capitol, as proposed in such report.

Under the prevailing statute providing for this report, the Commission is charged with the responsibility of establishing to its satisfaction whether the five conditions specified in the law are met.

If the Commission determines that the five conditions are not met, then the law provides that the Commission shall direct the preparation of final plans for extending the West Central Front in accord with Plan 2 which the Commission has heretofore approved.

If the Commission concludes that the five conditions are met, then the law provides that the Commission shall make recommendations to the Congress on the question of whether to extend or restore the front.

Law Relating to These Determinations:

In the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1970, (Public Law 91-145), the Congress simultaneously appropriated \$2,000,000 for preparation of final contract drawings and specifications for carrying out Plan 2 for extension of the West Central Front of the Capitol and \$250,000 for engineering and other necessary services for studying and reporting on the feasibility and cost of restoring the front.

The law provided that pending the completion and consideration of the restoration study and report, no further work toward extension was to be undertaken.

The law also contained the following provisions which are pertinent to your consideration today:

\*\*\*That after submission of such study and report and consideration thereof by the Commission, the Commission shall direct the preparation of final plans for extending such west central front in accord with Plan 2 (which said Commission has approved), unless such restoration study report establishes to the satisfaction of the Commission:

"(1) That through restoration, such west central front can, without undue hazard to safety of the structure and persons, be made safe, sound, durable, and beautiful for the foreseeable future;

"(2) That restoration can be accomplished with no more vacation of west central front space in the building proper (excluding the terrace structure) than would be required by the proposed extension Plan 2;

"(3) That the method or methods of accomplishing restoration can be so described or specified as to form the basis for performance of the restoration work by competitive, lumpsum, fixed price construction bid or bids;



"(4) That the cost of restoration would not exceed \$15,000,000; and

"(5) That the time schedule for accomplishing the restoration work will not exceed that heretofore projected for accomplishing the Plan 2 extension work: Provided further, That after consideration of the restoration study report, if the Commission concludes that all five of the conditions hereinbefore specified are met, the Commission shall then make recommendations to the Congress on the question of whether to extend or restore the west central front of the Capitol."

Upon direction of the Commission for Extension of the United States Capitol, after exhaustive study, the engineering contract for the restoration study was awarded to Praeger-Kavanagh-Waterbury, Engineers-Architects of New York City, on July 1, 1970.

The Praeger report was received at the end of December, 1970, and was forwarded immediately to all Members of the Commission and released to the press and others interested.

Statement of the Architect of the Capitol Relating to his Study of the West Front Problem:

Early last year, as the newly appointed Architect of the Capitol, and in anticipation that the Commission in Charge, before reaching a conclusion on the matter, would seek my professional judgment in assisting them to evaluate the Praeger report, I began a detailed professional review of all available information relating to the history and development of the West Central Front proposals.

Among the activities in which I engaged during the review are the following:

1. A careful and diligent open-minded study of the Praeger report.





2. A physical examination of both the interior and the exterior of the original west walls.

3. A careful review of testimony given over a period of many years before various House and Senate Committees concerned with the proposals for the extension of the West Front of the Capitol, and before the Commission for Extension of the United States Capitol.

4. A reading and review of the record of the floor debates in both the Senate and the House that led to the various actions of the Congress.

5. A review of the legislation, committee reports, and other documents on the subject.

6. Study of the Mueser, Rutledge, Wentworth & Johnston engineering report of 1957.

7. Study of the 1964 engineering report of The Thompson & Lichtner Co., Inc.

8. A study of the various reports of the former Architect of the Capitol, as well as reports made to him by the Associate Architects for the Extension Project.

9. Meetings and discussions of the various past studies, and of the Praeger report, with the staff of the Architect of the Capitol.

10. Requested and received advice and counsel from the American Institute of Architects which responded by appointing a new Task Force to re-examine the AIA position. We engaged in several conferences and a written report from the Task Force was received.



11. Asked three prominent general contractors, an officer and members of the AGC, for their opinion with regard to estimates of cost as outlined in the Praeger report and the feasibility of obtaining competitive, lumpsum bids.

12. Conversed at some length with Mr. E. H. Praeger himself in order that I might obtain verbal clarification of a number of what I considered to be ambiguous or contradicting portions of the written report.

13. Conferred with the Advisory Architects, Consulting Engineers, and others.

14. Conferred with other individuals who have maintained a long interest in the Capitol, including Senators, Congressmen, and design professionals.

15. Spoke with a British stone preservation expert who inspected the Capitol, and then read several of his papers regarding the deterioration of stone generally and in England in particular.

16. Inspected, at no cost to the Government, several European restoration projects.

17. Personally examined the space needs of the House of Representatives and, to some degree, the space needs of the Senate. Have explored all areas on the House Side of the Capitol, from the basement through the attic, and many of the Senate areas. Several discussions have been held with Senator Jordan about my proceeding with a full space study of Senate facilities and he has now approved my proceeding with that study.



18. Examined and studied the matter of how the Congress uses the building, how the public (visitors) also uses the building, and further, how their respective and simultaneous needs must be considered.

19. Spent untold hours in review of the various data and in the reading of articles by many persons concerned with preservation, planning, the history of the Capitol, and in the re-examination of the Praeger report.

Professional Judgments of the Architect:

After these many months of study and investigation, I am prepared to offer the following professional judgments, which for the purposes of this brief presentation have been necessarily simplified:

1. The structural adequacy of the west wall is, in fact, indeterminate. As many experts will declare that it is stable as will say that it is unstable. But even those who support the position of stability admit to the indeterminacy of the loading computations, and, therefore, say that the wall should be strengthened as an insurance against the probability of a possible failure. Thus, although there appears to be no imminent danger of an immediate collapse, there may well be concentrations of forces that have accumulated through structural and other changes over the years and that could, under certain circumstances, be triggered and released. There appears, then, to be no basic disagreement regarding the need to strengthen, and thus stabilize the wall in some fashion. Further, there appears to be no disagreement that this goal may be achieved in



at least two ways, one of which is through restoration, or a strengthening of the wall in situ, and another of which is through an extension of the building itself, which will, in effect, buttress and thus strengthen the wall.

2. There appears to be no disagreement with regard to the exterior appearance of the proposed extension, nor any disagreement with regard to the total appearance of the Capitol that would result.

3. That human characteristic which manifests itself in our desire to save and preserve at least some of our heritage, whether it be personal, national, or international, finds a high degree of intensity in some, and it may then be expressed in the feeling that preservation is a primary goal in and of itself. I submit that the intensity with which that desire exists in the spectrum of people's feelings must, in this instance, be weighed against some of the physical needs of the Congress that must be met. If the Congress, for example, were to commission the design of a new legislative complex, the designers would undoubtedly need to assist in the writing of a program which would describe the physical needs of the Congress in the transaction of its daily business. The configuration of the building or buildings would arise from a study of these needs. In this existing legislative building, viz., the Capitol, these needs have changed and expanded over the years, and, indeed, are continuing to do so. It is apparent that complex problems such as these are not generally capable of simple solutions. Recognizing that it may thus be an oversimplification to so state, it is



nevertheless my opinion that the Congress must weigh the sentiment of preservation against its physical needs, taking into account the various alternative methods of providing needed space in close proximity to the legislative chambers.

4. The argument can be made that the fact that the West Front contains the last remaining exposed original wall, is indicative of the past life and hence the growth of this living, working symbol of democracy and freedom that is the Capitol. Sometime, of course, acceleration in the growth of our Nation may diminish and perhaps that point is already in sight. It has therefore been suggested that the existing physical outline of the Capitol be considered inviolate at its present location. Somewhere that position must surely be taken, but it appears that it is not necessarily valid to presume that it cannot be taken at some other location, such as, for example, that of the proposed extension.

5. The final cost of the proposed restoration appears to be indeterminate. Most experts feel that the cost will certainly be more than \$15,000,000, notwithstanding the written statement in the Praeger report. The requirements of items 3 and 4 of Public Law 91-145, previously quoted, indicated that a lumpsum contract for restoration of not more than \$15,000,000 must be capable of being obtained. I interpret these two items, taken together, as meaning that the Congress has set a fixed, limited, i.e., maximum, cost of \$15,000,000 as one of the criteria for the feasibility of restoration. Experience in the construction of buildings indicates that a lumpsum



contract, in and of itself, is not an assurance that the designated sum will indeed be the final cost. It is my considered professional opinion, based upon my recent investigations as outlined above, that the restoration, as proposed, cannot be accomplished for a total final cost of \$15,000,000. In that connection, it is important to recognize that even though the cost per square foot of an extension might appear to be high because of the particular kind of construction that would be necessary, any expenditure for restoration, because no space would be added, would result in what mathematically results in an infinite cost per square foot.

It is, further, worthy of note that there is no disagreement among the advocates of the various positions that restoration work generally, and the West Front of the Capitol in particular, should, because of its specialized nature, be accomplished through the medium of a cost plus a fixed fee contract rather than through a lumpsum agreement obtained on a competitive bid basis.

Although the specifics of the other three provisions of Public Law 91-145 can generally be said to be capable of being met, with the obvious possibility for disagreement regarding what is "safe, sound, durable, and beautiful for the foreseeable future", I believe that it would be inappropriate to presume that the cost limitation can or could be met.

Summary:

Summarizing, then, I submit the following judgments: (a) although it is relatively stable, the west wall needs repair and strengthening;



Page 10

(b) the restoration method of strengthening the wall cannot be accomplished for a guaranteed cost limit of \$15,000,000; (c) the Congress must weigh and decide upon the relative importance and the appropriate methods of providing for its space needs in the Capitol, as compared with the admittedly highly desirable goal of preserving the exposed physical wall.

Additional information will be available at the meeting of the Commission.

George M. White  
Architect of the Capitol



GEORGE M. WHITE

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, November 1, 1920. Four children: Stephanie 19, Jocelyn 18, Geoffrey 17, and Pamela 14. Holds the degrees of Master of Science and Bachelor of Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1941). Master of Business Administration from the Graduate School of Business of Harvard University (1948); Bachelor of Laws from Case Western Reserve (1959). He is a Registered Architect in Ohio, a Registered Professional Engineer in Ohio and Massachusetts, a member of the Ohio Bar, and certified by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the National Council of State Boards of Engineering Examiners.

A former electronics design engineer and assistant division manager, Electronics Dept., General Electric Company (1946), he has practiced as an architect and as a consulting engineer since 1948.

Former member of the Faculty in Physics and in Architecture at Case Western Reserve University.

A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, he is a former A.I.A. Vice President and Board Member; Member and former Chairman of the A.I.A. Documents Board and Insurance Committee; Chairman of A.I.A. Task Forces on Structure, on Professional Liability Insurance, and on Labor Liaison; member of the National Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Bar Association, and the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. Awarded the Gold Medal of the Architect's Society of Ohio.

Author of numerous articles on Professional Liability, Professional Corporations, and Construction Law.

President, Director, and Trustee of several real estate development organizations; President of Whitecliff Inc., a 100 bed extended care facility; Chairman of the Board of Merriman Holbrook, Inc., a marine hardware manufacturer.

Appointed Architect of the Capitol in January 1971.

August 1971





The Speaker's Rooms  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.


March 9, 1972

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
Minority Leader  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative Ford:

Enclosed are copies of the agreement reached yesterday by the Commission for Extension of the United States Capitol which the Speaker thought you might like to have for your files.

Sincerely,

  
MICHAEL L. REED  
Legislative Assistant



Enclosures

MLR/ckh

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March 8, 1972

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Whereas, the Commission established to its satisfaction that all five of the conditions specified in Public Law 91-145, relating to restoration, cannot be met: Now, therefore, be it resolved,

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Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman

Orin J. Gibson  
President of the Senate

Wesley Taylor  
Majority Leader of the House

Mike Mansfield  
Majority Leader of the Senate

Gerald R. Ford  
Minority Leader of the House

Hugh Scott  
Minority Leader of the Senate

George M. White  
Architect of the Capitol



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- (1) That through restoration, such west central front can, without undue hazard to safety of the structure and persons, be made safe, sound, durable, and beautiful for the foreseeable future;
- (2) That restoration can be accomplished with no more vacation of west central front space in the building proper (excluding the terrace structure) than would be required by the proposed extension Plan 2;
- (3) That the method or methods of accomplishing restoration can be so described or specified as to form the basis for performance of the restoration work by competitive, lumpsum, fixed price construction bid or bids;
- (4) That the cost of restoration would not exceed \$15,000,000; and
- (5) That the time schedule for accomplishing the restoration work will not exceed that heretofore projected for accomplishing the Plan 2 extension work: *Provided further*, That after consideration of the restoration study report, if the Commission concludes that all five of the conditions hereinbefore specified are met, the Commission shall then make recommendations to the Congress on the question of whether to extend or restore the west central front of the Capitol.



Whereas, the restoration feasibility and cost study and report of Praeger-Kavanagh-Waterbury, Consulting Engineers-Architects, made pursuant to Public Law 91-145, was considered by the Commission at its meeting of March 8, 1972, in Room EF-100 of the Capitol; and

Whereas, the Commission established to its satisfaction that all five of the conditions specified in Public Law 91-145, relating to restoration, cannot be met: Now, therefore, be it resolved,

That the Architect of the Capitol is hereby directed to proceed with the preparation of final plans for extending the west central front in accord with Plan 2 heretofore approved by the Commission.

Carl Albert

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman

Spencer J. Symmes  
President of the Senate

Hubert H. Bonior

Majority Leader of the House

Mike Mansfield

Majority Leader of the Senate

Gerald R. Ford

Minority Leader of the House

Hugh Scott

Minority Leader of the Senate

James M. White  
Architect of the Capitol



COMMISSION FOR EXTENSION OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

March 8, 1972

Whereas Public Law 91-145, approved December 12, 1969, provides:

EXTENSION OF THE CAPITOL

For an additional amount for "Extension of the Capitol", \$2,275,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commission for Extension of the United States Capitol as authorized by law: *Provided*, That such portion of the foregoing appropriation as may be necessary shall be used for emergency shoring and repairs of, and related work on, the west central front of the Capitol: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$250,000 of the foregoing appropriation shall be used for the employment of independent nongovernmental engineering and other necessary services for studying and reporting (within six months after the date of the employment contract) on the feasibility and cost of restoring such west central front under such terms and conditions as the Commission may determine: *Provided, however*, That pending the completion and consideration of such study and report, no further work toward extension of such west central front shall be carried on: *Provided further*, That after submission of such study and report and consideration thereof by the Commission, the Commission shall direct the preparation of final plans for extending such west central front in accord with Plan 2 (which said Commission has approved), unless such restoration study report establishes to the satisfaction of the Commission:

- (1) That through restoration, such west central front can, without undue hazard to safety of the structure and persons, be made safe, sound, durable, and beautiful for the foreseeable future;
- (2) That restoration can be accomplished with no more vacation of west central front space in the building proper (excluding the terrace structure) than would be required by the proposed extension Plan 2;
- (3) That the method or methods of accomplishing restoration can be so described or specified as to form the basis for performance of the restoration work by competitive, lumpsum, fixed price construction bid or bids;
- (4) That the cost of restoration would not exceed \$15,000,000; and
- (5) That the time schedule for accomplishing the restoration work will not exceed that heretofore projected for accomplishing the Plan 2 extension work: *Provided further*, That after consideration of the restoration study report, if the Commission concludes that all five of the conditions hereinbefore specified are met, the Commission shall then make recommendations to the Congress on the question of whether to extend or restore the west central front of the Capitol.



Whereas, the restoration feasibility and cost study and report of Praeger-Kavanagh-Waterbury, Consulting Engineers-Architects, made pursuant to Public Law 91-145, was considered by the Commission at its meeting of March 8, 1972, in Room EF-100 of the Capitol; and

Whereas, the Commission established to its satisfaction that all five of the conditions specified in Public Law 91-145, relating to restoration, cannot be met: Now, therefore, be it resolved,

That the Architect of the Capitol is hereby directed to proceed with the preparation of final plans for extending the west central front in accord with Plan 2 heretofore approved by the Commission.

*Carl Albert*

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman

*Orin J. Rogers*  
President of the Senate

*Carl Albert*

Majority Leader of the House

*Mike Mansfield*

Majority Leader of the Senate

*Gerald R. Ford*

Minority Leader of the House

*Hugh Scott*

Minority Leader of the Senate

*George M. White*  
Architect of the Capitol

