The original documents are located in Box 42, folder "1976/04/13 S2920 Thomas Jefferson Building" of the White House Records Office: Legislation Case Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MEMORANDUM MEMORANDUM FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

April 12, 1976

ACTION

FROM:

SUBJECT:

THE PRESIDENT

JIM CANNO

S. 2920 - Thomas Jefferson Building

TOARCHIVES

Attached for your consideration is S. 2920, sponsored by Senator Cannon, which would rename the Library of Congress Annex as the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building.

Additional information is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Lazarus), Jack Marsh and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign S. 2920 at Tab B.





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

APR 1 2 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 2920 - Thomas Jefferson Building

Sponsor - Sen. Cannon (D) Nevada

Last Day for Action

Special circumstances suggest that bill be signed on Tuesday, April 13.

Purpose

To rename the Library of Congress Annex the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Library of Congress

Approval (Informally)

Discussion

Most of the books in the Library of Congress were destroyed when the British burned the Capitol on August 24, 1814, during the War of 1812. Thomas Jefferson, then living in retirement in Monticello, offered his personal library of more than 6,500 volumes to the Congress in order to begin rebuilding the Library's collection. The act to purchase his library was approved on January 30, 1815.

S. 2920 would honor Jefferson's role in the development of the Library of Congress by renaming the Library of Congress Annex the "Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building."

Since Tuesday, April 13, is the 233rd anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, we recommend that you approve this bill on that day.

Assistant Director

for Legislative Reference

Enclosures

WASHINGTON

Apr. 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CAVANAUGH

FROM:

MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF MM. 6.

SUBJECT:

H.R. 2920 - Thos. Jeff. Bldg.

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs with the agencies that the subject bill be signed.

Attachments

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Lindy (Mrs. Hale) Bogge M.C.

Mr. Friedersdorf The White House

Bol der

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO .:

Date: April 12

Jack Marsh

FOR ACTION: Max Friedersdorf.

Ken Lazarus Milt Mitlerak

Sarah Massengale

Time: 505pm

cc (for information): JamkCavanaugh

Ed Schmults

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: April 12

Time: asap

SUBJECT:

H.R. 2920 - Thomas Jefferson Building

ACTION REQUESTED:

_ For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

Cannon 4/12 Goopm

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR. For the President



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

APR 1 2 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 2920 - Thomas Jefferson Building

Sponsor - Sen. Cannon (D) Nevada

Last Day for Action

Special circumstances suggest that bill be signed on Tuesday, April 13.

Purpose

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Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Library of Congress

Approval (Informally)

Discussion

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S. 2920 would honor Jefferson's role in the development of the Library of Congress by renaming the Library of Congress Annex the "Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building."

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

APR 7 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Resolution H.J. Res. 670 - Thomas
Jefferson Day
Sponsor - Rep. McClory (R) Illinois

Last Day for Action

Date in the envolled resolution requires immediate action.

Purpose

Authorizes and requests that you proclaim April 13, 1976, as "Thomas Jefferson Day," in honor of the birthday of the third President.

Agency Recommendation

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Discussion

The enrolled resolution would designate April 13, 1976, as "Thomas Jefferson Day," in honor of the 233rd anniversary of his birth. It also requests that you issue a proclamation to that effect, calling upon the Nation to honor the memory of the third President with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

House floor debate on H.J. Res. 670 indicates that because of President Jefferson's illustrious career -- including his roles as author of the Declaration of Independence, member of the Virginia House of Delegates, founder of the University of Virginia, Governor of the Commonwealth, U.S. Ambassador to France, Secretary of State, Vice President and President -- the Members believed that enactment of this measure would be a fitting way to honor President Jefferson during this Bicentennial year.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

Two hundred years ago the people of our new land struggled to secure for themselves, and for us, freedom from the rule of a distant government. They succeeded. It is for us to preserve.

As we reflect on our responsibilities and look to others for example and inspiration, we can do no better than to renew our acquaintance with the life of Thomas Jefferson - lawyer, member of the Virginia House of Delegates, Governor, Minister to France, Secretary of State, Vice President, our third President, scholar, scientist, architect, and principal author of the Declaration of Independence.

Pursuant to Proclamation No. 2276 of March 21, 1938, our Nation has formally celebrated the 13th of April in honor of the birthday, in 1743, of this great man. In our Bicentennial Year, it is fitting that we celebrate this day in a special way, as the Congress has requested (H.J. Res. 670).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby request the observance of Tuesday, April 13, 1976, as Thomas Jefferson Day.

I ask all Americans, in their homes, their schools, and their places of work, to reflect on the life, times, and works of Thomas Jefferson. I urge every American

to spend at least a few minutes on this day in reading the Declaration of Independence or other writings of Thomas Jefferson, and to participate in other appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
this day of , in the year of our
Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence
of the United States of America the two hundredth.

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1976

Last Day: April 13

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

H.J. Res. 670

Thomas Jefferson Day

Attached for your consideration is H.J. Res. 670, sponsored by Representative McClory, which authorizes and requests that you proclaim April 13, 1976 as Thomas Jefferson Day.

Additional information is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, Jack Marsh, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Lazarus) Ted Marrs and I recommend approval of the enrolled resolution and the attached proclamation which has been cleared by the White House Editorial Office (Smith). OMB has no objection to the proposed proclamation.

der of the Virginia House of Delegater, Tounder of the

RECOMMENDATIONS

That you sign H.J. Res. 670 at Tab B.

That you sign the proclamation at Tab C.

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: April 12

Jack Marsh

FOR ACTION: Max Friedersdorf

Ken Lazarus Milt Mitler -Sarah Massengale Time:

505pm

cc (for information): Jim Cavanaugh

Ed Schmults

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: April 12

Time: asap

SUBJECT:

H.R. 2920 - Thomas Jefferson Building

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

_For Your Recommendations

____ Prepare Agenda and Brief

____ Draft Reply

X For Your Comments

____ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jemes H. Couron For the Prosident

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: April 12

Jack Marsh

FOR ACTION: Max Friedersdorf

Ken Lazarus Milt Mitler

Sarah Massengale 🗸

Time: 505pm

cc (for information): J

Jim Cavanaugh

Ed Schmults

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: April 12

Time: asap

SUBJECT:

H.R. 2920 - Thomas Jefferson Building

ACTION REQUESTED:

____ For Necessary Action

____ For Your Recommendations

____ Prepare Agenda and Brief

____ Draft Reply

X For Your Comments

____ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

Approve.

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James M. Conven For the President

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO .:

Date: April 12

Jack Marsh

FOR ACTION: Max Friedersdorf

Ken Lazarus Milt Mitler Sarah Massengale Time: 505pm

cc (for information): Jim Cavanaugh

Ed Schmults

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

Times asap

DUE: Date: April 12

SUBJECT:

H.R. 2920 - Thomas Jefferson Building

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief Draft Reply

_X For Your Comments ____ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

No objection -- Ken Lazarus 4/13/76 AM

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James M. Cannon For the President

S. 2920

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 1976

Mr. Cannon introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To name the building known as the Library of Congress Annex to be the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 That the building in the block bounded by East Capitol
- 4 Street, Second Street Southeast, Third Street Southeast, and
- 5 Pennsylvania Avenue Southeast, in the District of Columbia
- 6 (commonly known as the Library of Congress Annex), shall
- 7 hereafter be known and designated as the "Library of Con-
- 8 gress Thomas Jefferson Building". Any reference in a law,
- 9 map, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the
- 10 United States to such building shall be held to be a reference
- 11 to the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building.

94TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

S. 2920

A BILL

To name the building known as the Library of Congress Annex to be the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building.

By Mr. Cannon

FEBRUARY 3, 1976

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

4/12/76

TO: .	JAMES CAVANAUGH				
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REPORT No. 94-719

DESIGNATING THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ANNEX AS THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING

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March 30, 1976.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. Cannon, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2920]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, to which was referred the bill (S. 2920) to name the building known as the Library of Congress Annex to be the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

S. 2920 would redesignate the present Library of Congress Annex Building as the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building.

Specifically, the bill would provide that the building in the block bounded by East Capitol Street, Second Street Southeast, Third Street Southeast, and Pennsylvania Avenue Southeast, in the District of Columbia (commonly known as the Library of Congress Annex), hereafter be known and designated as the "Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building." Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States to such building would be held to be a reference to the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building.

In his statement of February 3, 1976, on the Senate floor when he introduced S. 2920, Senator Howard W. Cannon expressed justifica-

tion for the measure as follows:

Mr. Cannon. Mr. President, I am today introducing legislation to designate the Library of Congress Annex Building on Second Street, between Pennsylvania Avenue and East Capitol, the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building. I think it can be said that Thomas Jefferson's vision shaped what was to become one of the greatest libraries in the world. I can think of no more fitting Bicentennial commemoration

to honor Jefferson than to recognize his role in the development of the collections of the Library of Congress.

We all remember President John Kennedy's toast to a gathering of Nobel prize winners at the White House. He said:

"I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever been gathered together at the White House, with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

Nowhere was there better evidence of Jefferson's knowledge and wide-ranging interests than in his personal library,

which he so carefully cultivated.

The fact that books from the Congress 14-year-old library were used to fuel the flames when the British burned the Capitol on August 24, 1814, has played an important part in the history of the Library of Congress and in its unique relationship to our third President. Jefferson in September 1814, then living in retirement in Monticello, wrote to his old friend Samuel Harrison Smith, founder of the National Intelligencer, stating that it would "be among the early objects of Congress to recommence their collection." He considered that this would "be difficult while the war continues, and intercourse with Europe is attended with so much risk." On the other hand there was his personal library in which he had "been 50 years making," and had "spared no pains, opportunity or expense to make it what it is." He had put together "everything which related to America, and indeed whatever" was rare and valuable in every science." In his letter he stated that he had long thought that his library "ought not to continue private property" and had provided that at his death "Congress should have the first refusal of it at their own price." However, because of the loss that Congress had incurred he aked of Mr. Smith "the tender of it to the Library of Congress."

In concluding his letter he said of his library:

"I do not know that it contains any branch of science which Congress would wish to exclude from their collection; there is, in fact no subject to which a Member of Congress may not have occasion to refer."

Certainly, these words were prophetic, Congress acted and on January 30, 1815, the act to purchase this collection of

more than 6,500 volumes was approved.

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Thus the Library of Congress became a library with collections universal in scope. Today these collections, which were built on Jefferson's library, total over 70 million items and are preeminent in the world.

The Essex Register in commenting on this purchase said:
"It is an honour to our country to say, that when a national collection was destroyed, the private Library of a President could supply its place. . . No circumstance could be better united with out patriotism, and in the history of the Library we shall never lose this pleasing recollection."

The naming, in this Bicentennial Year, of the Annex Building as the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building will ensure that this important link to our past will never be lost.

Letters in support of S. 2920, addressed to Senator Howard W. Cannon, chairman, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, by Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, and by Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, chairman, and Senator Edward W. Brooke, vice chairman, Joint Committee on Arrangements for Commemoration of the Bicentennial, are as follows:

THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS, Washington, D.C., March 25, 1976.

Hon. Howard W. Cannon, Chairmen, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CANNON: This is in response to your request for the Library's views with respect to S. 2920, a bill to name the building known as the Library of Congress Annex the Library of Congress

Thomas Jefferson Building.

The Library of Congress considers it a fitting bicentennial commemoration to honor Jefferson by naming the Annex Building the Thomas Jefferson Building. This would, we believe, give recognition to Thomas Jefferson as the founder of the present great collection of the Library of Congress. It was his library, purchased by Congress in 1815 for the Library of Congress, that formed the nucleus of the present-day Library, which now has over 70 million items in its collections.

Should this legislation be enacted, the Library of Congress would mark the renaming in a ceremony unveiling a plaque in front of the Annex and in a half-day symposium at the Library on the role of Thomas Jefferson as a bookman, on his library as the basis of the Library of Congress, and on the Library's present role in American life. The ceremony would also honor all libraries in the country during this centennial year of the American Library Association.

We urge the enactment of this legislation to honor Thomas Jefferson for his role in the development of the Library of Congress.

Sincerely yours,

3.00 33.8

Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian of Congress.

Congress of the United States,
Joint Committee on Arrangements
for Commemoration of the Bicentennial,
Washington, D.C., March 23, 1976.

Hon. Howard W. Cannon,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Joint Committee on Arrangements is planning appropriate ceremonies to commemorate the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, on April 13. A joint meeting of the Congress is planned, and it is our hope that the President, at ceremonies at the

S.R. 719

Jefferson Memorial, will sign the bill, S. 2920, which is now before your committee. The bill would designate the Library of Congress Annex as, the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building.

The joint committee has also endorsed House Joint Resolution 670 designating April 13 "Thomas Jefferson Day." This would require the President to issue a proclamation calling for appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The passage of both these items as soon as possible would greatly increase the interest in the contributions of this great American, and draw national attention to the related ceremonies. It is our hope that your committee will act on S. 2920 so that proper tribute can be planned for the morning of April 13.

Sincerely,

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LINDY (Mrs. Hale) Boggs, Chairman. EDWARD W. BROOKE, Vice Chairman.

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

UPON SIGNING

S. 2920 AND H.J. RES 670

TWO BILLS HONORING THOMAS JEFFERSON

AND

COMMEMORATING THE BIRTH OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

THE THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

12:20 P.M. EST

Secretary Kleppe, Captain Barnes, distinguished guests -- including the fine choir from the College of William and Mary, Thomas Jefferson's alma mater -- ladies and gentlemen:

Today we pay tribute to Thomas Jefferson. Two hundred years of American history have produced no man whose achievements are better known. In his own epitaph he cited just three -- author of the Declaration of American Independence, author of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom and father of the University of Virginia.

Had those been only his basic accomplishment, he would have earned his place in history, and our unyielding gratitude, but we know Jefferson in other ways as well. We know the character of the man who embodied our national heritage by encompassing the spirit of pioneer and aristocrat, American and world citizen, the values of nature and the values of civilization.

In politics, we know him as a lawyer and as a legislator, as a member of the Continental Congress, Ambassador to France, our nation's third President, and it's first Secretary of State. In our national life, we know him as a scientist and agronomist, as an artist, architect and inventor.

Thomas Jefferson's achievements range from our decimal system of coinage to the great area of our nation itself, which he doubled through the Louisiana Purchase. But, Thomas Jefferson' contributions to our nation's history is far, far more than the sum of these diverse accomplishments. The very range of his interests has heightened his impact on later generations.

It is a quirk of history that Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, both signers of the Declaration of Independence, died on July 4, 1826, 50 years to the day of its adoption. John Adams last words were "Jefferson still lives." History shows Adams was wrong because Jefferson had died a mere five hours earlier, but history also has confirmed Adams words because Thomas Jefferson lives in each of us.

We are all his successors, and it is up to us, not history, to see that Jefferson's faith survives. Great citizens and their great thoughts are not just for their own time, but forever. Jefferson's true importance lies in the fact that he continues to speak of the American experience.

In every generation, Americans have turned to Jefferson for comfort and inspiration. They have found new meanings, often conflicting meanings, in his words. In their search for Jefferson's spirit, Americans have sought themselves. To Abraham Lincoln, the principles of Jefferson were the definitions and axioms of free society, a society he was struggling to preserve, and Lincoln, the Great Emancipator, gave those principles new significance.

Three generations later, another great American leader, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, locked in another war for freedom, dedicated this memorial as a shrine to freedom. On the 200th anniversary of Jefferson's birth, he called for a commitment to Jefferson's cause not by words alone, but by sacrifice. In this 200th year of the nation Jefferson helped to found, it seems our America has changed so much that when we compare it with Jefferson's America, the differences are more striking than the similarities.

We are no longer a young, isolated, agricultural nation but an industrial giant in a nuclear age. Thomas Jefferson would have been the first to recognize that different times demands different policies. He stressed that the earth belongs always to the living generation. In our Bicentennial year, we turn once again to Jefferson's words and find them surprisingly modern.

Jefferson's principle of limited Government, his concern about excessive centralization of Governmental power at the expense of State and local responsibility, and individual freedom are as much a part of the debate of 1976 as they were in 1776.

I believe that in this debate the wisdom and the philosophy of Jefferson will prevail. We find he believed that not every difference of opinion is a difference of principle and that he tolerated error in the confidence that truth would triumph.

Jefferson was a fervent believer in freedom of the press. Although harshly attacked and often vilified, he maintained an unfettered press was essential to American freedom. We find the meaning of democracy in his immortal words, that "Though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable, that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect."

We find he put his trust in the people whom he believed to be basically moderate, patriotic and freedom-loving, and we find above all else his love for freedom and independence. Today, we recognize this in two symbolic gestures.

Jefferson's belief in the freedom and independence of the human mind we honor today by an Act of Congress which names one building of the Library of Congress after him, and Jefferson's belief in the freedom and independence of the American people we honor today by an Act of Congres which designates today as Thomas Jefferson Day.

I believe as we move into our third century of independence there will be an even greater emphasis by our people to find ways and means to meet our needs while limiting the role of Government in the classical Jefferson sense. I see the third century of American independence as a century of individualism.

I see it as a century of personal achievement and fulfillment for all Americans. Let us honor Thomas Jefferson this year and throughout the the next century of our independence by weaving into our national life the qualities, the talents and the ideals which were the warp and woof of his.

Let us practice the responsible individualism and thereby pay tribute to the man we commemorate here. Let us dedicate ourselves to achievement so that we may make this country what it has the potential to be. Let us maintain for America its rightful place of leadership in the councils of nations of the world.

Let us extend the boundaries of human freedom here at home and beyond our shores. Let us accept and discharge the responsibilities as a people upon whom providence has bestowed so much. Let us be enlightened as a nation with appreciation for learning, for reason and for justice for all our people.

In this way, my fellow Americans, we shall pay honor to the man from Monticello.

Page 4

It is now my honor to sign two pieces of legislation relating to Thomas Jefferson. I would like to ask the Members of Congress present to join me at the signing table.

It is now my pleasure to sign House Joint Resolution 670, designating April 13 as Thomas Jefferson Day. Representative Bob McClory was the principal sponsor, and so as I sign this, I will give him this pen and we will distribute the others.

Now it is my honor to sign S. 2920, the legislation which officially designates the Library of Congress Annex as the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building. I think on this occasion it would be appropriate to give this pen to the senior Senator from Virginia, the Honorable Harry Byrd.

Thank you.

END (AT 12:32 P.M. EST)