

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

~~Date, Bob~~

Brotman, Judy

STANDING COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 1, 1985

Mr. Larry Allison
Architectural & Transportation
Barriers Compliance Board
330 C Street, S.W.
Room 1010
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Larry:

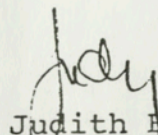
I'm enclosing a copy of the response that Senator Dole recently received from George M. White, Architect of the Capitol, regarding his inquiry into accessibility within the Capitol complex.

As you can see, he indicates that remodeling will be completed within the next three years. While the schedule has been somewhat slow, it appears that the end results will be consistent with ANSI and the needs of persons with disabilities.

Please let me know if you have any additional thoughts or guidance on this issue.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Judith Brotman
Legislative Assistant to
Senator Bob Dole

Enclosure

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 4, 1984

Mr. George M. White
Architect of the Capitol
SB-15
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. White:

It has recently been brought to my attention that in spite of the tremendous progress that has been made in making Senate Office Buildings and the Capitol itself accessible to handicapped persons, these buildings still are not fully accessible.

Very few of the rest rooms in either the Dirksen or the Russell Buildings are accessible--4 men's and 3 women's in the six floors of the Dirksen Building and 2 men's and 3 women's in the four floors of the Russell Building. Clearly there should be, at a minimum, one accessible rest room on each floor.

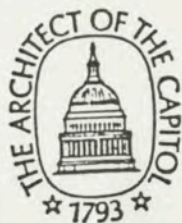
While I am aware that the Capitol itself and the two Senate Office Buildings referred to were built prior to the passage of the Architectural Barriers Act (1969), I would encourage that additional efforts be taken to bring the buildings into compliance with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards. Staff of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board would, I'm sure, be pleased to provide technical assistance in determining where additional effort is warranted.

The Capitol of the United States continues to represent Government of the people, by the people, and for the people to persons around the world. Every effort to make it fully accessible to all of America's citizens is surely in order.

Sincerely yours,


BOB DOLE
United States Senate

BD:jb



Washington, D.C. 20515

January 29, 1985

Judy

The Honorable Robert Dole
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

This will respond to your letter of December 4, 1984, suggesting the need for additional efforts to bring the Senate Office Buildings and the Capitol into compliance with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards.

As you may recall, this office commissioned a study in 1973 by Edward H. Noakes, architectural consultant, then Chairman of the President's Commission on the Handicapped, to survey all buildings on Capitol Hill, including the Capitol, House and Senate Office Buildings, the Library of Congress Buildings, the Botanic Garden and their surrounding grounds, to determine measures required to bring them in full compliance with the American National Standards Institute Standards 117.1. The latter standard was then the accepted guideline prior to issuance of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board's "Minimum Guidelines and Requirements for Accessible Design (36 CFR Part 1190) Issued August 4, 1982, the present standard which we now follow.

As a result of the foregoing study, this office prepared cost estimates for implementation of the study recommendations and the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1976, Public Law 94-59 (89 Stat 290), provided \$2,700,000 for this purpose, to remain available until expended. The project was planned to be undertaken in increments over a 15 year period, following an initial accomplishment of at least one barrier free restroom for each sex, telephone, drinking fountain, elevator, entrance door, etc., in each building. In the ensuing years a great many more facilities have been completed. The project is on schedule and is expected to be completed within three years, three years ahead of schedule. Approximately \$1.2 million remains available in the original appropriation, which is sufficient to complete the project.

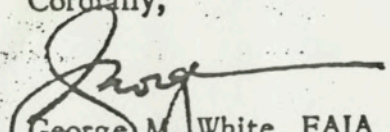
The Honorable Robert Dole
January 29, 1985
Page Two

Working drawings are currently in preparation for a number of facilities, including the completion of at least one accessible restroom for each sex on each floor where they do not already exist. We have in the past availed ourselves of valued technical assistance from the staff of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board and will continue to do so in the future.

Please be assured that I share your objective that all buildings on Capitol Hill be fully accessible to all of America's citizens and will continue to bend every effort toward that end.

I shall, of course, be pleased to assist you in any other way you may deem desirable.

Cordially,



George M. White, FAIA
Architect of the Capitol

Filed

MEMORANDUM

Date: December , 1994
To: Sheila Burke
From: Alec Vachon *AV*
Re: LETTER TO GEORGE WHITE

- * As request, attached is a letter to George White. I expect White will have objections--we'll see. By way of history, Mo had worked on this matter (and others) without success, and was even unable to get a meeting with White.
- * BTW, a wheelchair has been requested opening day for Senator-Elect Frist's Dad, Dr. Thomas Frist--he is somewhat ambulatory, but needs assistance. Arrangements have been made for wheelchair access to the gallery. Reenactments for photos will be conducted as usual in the Old Senate Chamber --First could participate without a ramp but it would be an added convenience.
- * I will call you to follow up re approval of letter and next steps. Thanks.

December 29, 1994

The Honorable George M. White
Architect of the Capitol
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear George:

As you know, the Old Senate Chamber is inaccessible to people who use wheelchairs because of two short steps at the main entrance. It is my understanding that plans had been drawn up some time ago to remedy this situation, with due respect for the historical sensitivity of this room, but that these plans were never implemented. In my view, the Capitol Building itself is an important symbol of our open and representative government, and that it should be equally available to all Americans.

Pending a permanent alteration, I request that a temporary ramp be installed immediately, but in no case later than the opening of the 104th Congress on January 4, 1994.

In addition, I have asked a member of my staff, Dr. Alexander Vachon, to call you to follow up on this request and to arrange a meeting to review other outstanding accessibility issues. Although I am aware the Architect's office has been active in making the Capitol complex accessible since 1976, I believe a fresh review would be timely.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate