

MEMORANDUM

DA: June 5, 1995  
TO: Joyce McCluney/Sergeant at Arms  
FR: Alec Vachon/Senator Dole  
RE: ACCESSIBILITY COMPLAINT

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I am also considering asking the Senator to send this individual a note after we sort out this.

BTW, the Architect has listed in the Senate phone book the name of his ADA coordinator (page attached).

I will call to follow up, or can be reached at 4-8959.

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Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics  
**REMOVAL NOTICE**

Date: 6/12/2012

Removed from: Senate Papers → Legislative Relations, 1969-1996, Subject Files, 1969-1995

Accession:

Box Number: 749, Folder 6: Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) -  
Congressional Compliance [3 of 3]

Removed to: Oversized Photographs

(Circle one)

Oversized Publications

Campaign Material

Oversized Newsprint

Personal Effects

Memorabilia

Oversized Flats [Posters, Handbills, etc]

Political Cartoons

Textiles

Photograph Collection

Box     

Box     

Box X

Box     

Box     

Box     

Box     

Box     

Box     

Box     

Size:

Format: Blueprint

Description: Capitol Building for ADA compliance

Date: March 9, 1995

Subject Terms (if any):

Restrictions: none

Remarks:

Place one copy with removed item  
Place one copy in original folder  
File one copy in file

*Washington Post June 4, 1995, p. C8.*

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## Access After Oklahoma

*Now only the able-bodied can enjoy the Capitol terrace ...*

Congress, despite its recent promise to abide by the laws it enacts, does not seem to be doing so. Although requiring American companies to provide physical access for the handicapped, in April Congress closed off the only wheelchair access to the upper terraces of the west front of the Capitol.

When I first noticed the new barricades, I looked for a ramp that would lead down the five steps to the lower terrace, which still is open to pedestrians. A Capitol police officer yelled at me to get away. When I asked for the location of the wheelchair access, she waved me off, telling me to go elsewhere.

I next called the office of the Capitol Police and, after being referred to several officers, spoke with one who explained that the barricades had been put up in response to the bombing in Oklahoma City. He asked if I wanted to file an official complaint against the officer who had rudely waved me off. I told him no. I realized that security considerations were paramount, and, be-

sides, I thought the barricades would come down in a few days or that new access would be provided. But during the following weeks, neither step was taken.

After waiting a month, I called the Capitol Police again, to see how much longer the obstructions would remain. After once again being referred to several officers, I spoke with one who told me that I should call Congress's sergeant at arms, who had ordered that the barricades be erected.

When I followed that advice, I reached someone in the Senate office of the sergeant at arms who insisted that no barricades blocked wheelchair access to the terrace and that I did not know what I was talking about.

Maybe the barricades had been removed since my last visit to the Capitol a few days earlier, I figured. But when I returned to the Capitol, the barricades were still in place.

In frustration, I asked a Capitol police officer what options were open to me.

"Complain to another official," he said.

"What official?" I asked.

"Go in the Capitol, and find one," he said, brushing me off.

I felt helpless and went home. I felt a little better later when the person in the sergeant at arms office called to say that since our conversation she had learned that there really were barricades blocking wheelchairs. But when I asked her how much longer these obstructions would remain, she said she didn't know. And when I inquired about the possibility of installing a ramp down the five steps to the terrace being used by pedestrians, she said that such action was being considered but, again, she did not know when a decision would be made.

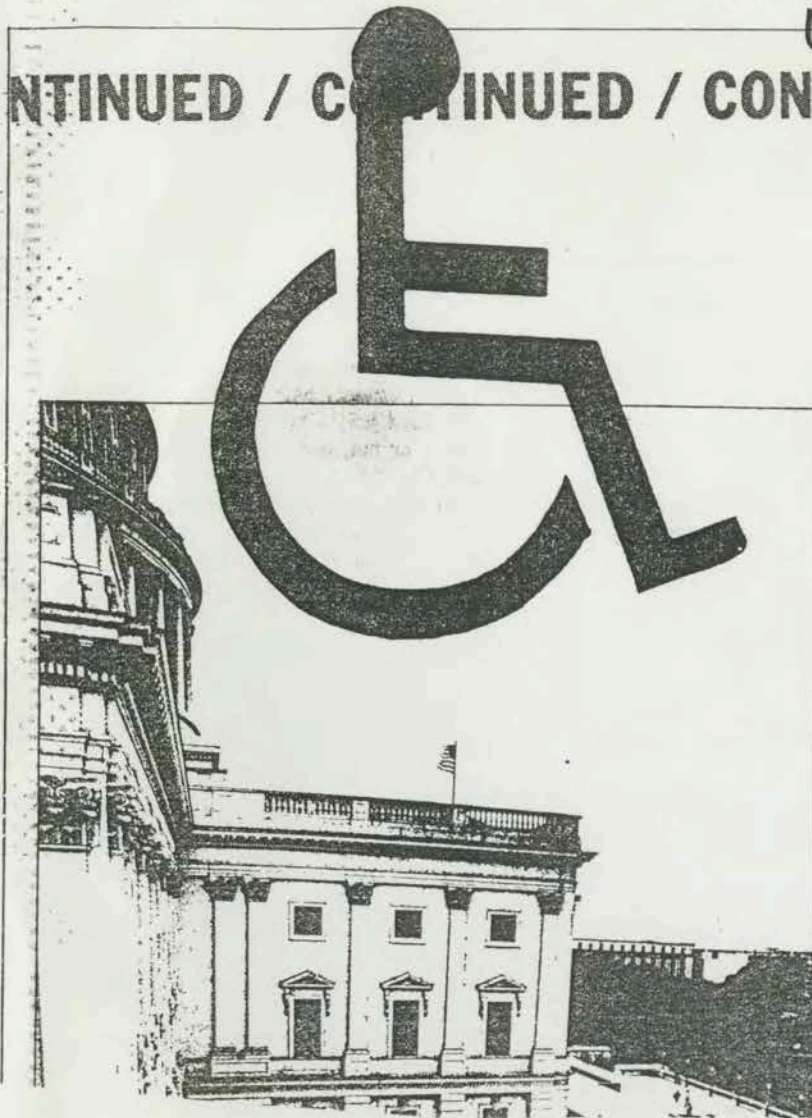
She said I could telephone a congressional office called "Special Services" about the problem. However, when I called that office, I spoke with three people, none of whom knew how a wheelchair would now get to the terrace or even why the sergeant at arms had referred me to

their office. In all fairness, they seemed truly concerned, and one promised to see what could be done and call me back.

In any case, the barricades are still there. Many people may see them as a minor inconvenience—after all, no vital business is conducted on the Capitol terrace. But for those who come to Washington hoping to take in one of the most delightful views this city has to offer, being denied that opportunity because they need a ramp—while watching others stroll by to enjoy it—can be disheartening.

I do not question the wisdom of those who decided to close the earlier access because of security considerations. Nor do I suggest that concern for the handicapped should have delayed that action. But when more than a month passes with no new access being created, one must wonder whether Congress shows the same respect for the handicapped that it demands of so many others.

—Terrence Markin



2/7/95 (R)

1)

{ Shuck Ruck  
Rey, Shony  
Whe  
Jean Manning  
Peter Deppen

Ray: Need ADA Coordinator

→ to collate reports from  
dept heads →

Duke

create "Self-evaluation" and

Training problem

→ prepares small booklet of policies / procedures

(→ issue of ADA coordinator vs. lawyer?)

- } GSA Center on accommodation is  
} currently James says Senate employees  
exposed there.

→

LOS unit

\$ 44 million budget

→

SB: { Need to handle up - away  
} → Need an ADA Coordinator  
Top Priority: ADA Coordinator

PS: Antitrust pass/market in  
Behr, Service Dept.

Know WSB

① outside  
training/  
tech assist?

② guidance  
in formal mediation

→ How formal  
process  
ADA coordinator: probably  
Control: formal guidance

{ hot  
lawyer } → {

ADA coordinator: probably  
Control: formal guidance

2

19 individual  
unsubscribed, can  
file final statement

1/27/95

Coordination and information

① Accessibility Coordinators  
in each office

② letter to Rule Comm

③ check of accuracy

---

④ discussion of ~~the~~ materials  
7 audio cassettes

---

→ 20 copies of ADA manual

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Monday, Feb-6

East  
1/27/95

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