

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1989

TO: SENATOR

FM: WALT

PRESS CONFERENCE, U.S. CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

WHAT: A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE TUESDAY WITH COMMISSION MEMBERS BOB BYRD, LINDY BOGGS, & ROBERT TISH PLUS GEORGE MITCHELL TO PROMOTE JUNE 20TH GALA DINNER AT THE PENSION BUILDING. THEY HOPE TO RAISE \$1 MILLION FOR THE COMMISSION.

GEORGE WHITE & JOE STEWART WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

WHERE & WHEN: PRESS EVENT AT S-211, 3PM.

YOUR ROLE: STOP BY FOR BRIEF REMARKS -- THEY ARE ATTACHED.

PRESS CONFERENCE
U.S. CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 18, 1989

I AM PLEASED TO JOIN THE DISTINGUISHED
MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION IN THIS VERY
IMPORTANT MISSION.

FROM ITS EARLIEST DAYS, THE CAPITOL HAS
HOUSED WORKS REFLECTING THE HISTORICAL AND
ARTISTIC HERITAGE OF OUR NATION.

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JUST AS CONGRESS IS A BODY OF THE PEOPLE AND
FOR THE PEOPLE, SO TOO MUST BE THE VERY
STRUCTURE WHICH HAS SHELTERED IT THROUGH WAR
AND PEACE, BOOM TIMES AND BUST.

AMERICANS ARE RIGHTLY PROUD THAT NO
LEGISLATIVE BUILDING IN THE WORLD IS MORE
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC THAN THE UNITED STATES
CAPITOL AND WE WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

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THE CAPITOL, WITH ITS HISTORIC CHAMBERS, ITS
PAINTINGS, SCULPTURE, FURNITURE, AND COUNTLESS
MOMENTOES, TELLS THE STORY OF THE WHOLE
EXPERIENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

IT IS OUR JOB NOW -- PASSED FROM GENERATION
TO GENERATION -- TO DO ALL WE CAN TO SEE THAT THIS
AMERICAN MONUMENT REMAINS A LIVING,
LONG-LASTING OPEN HOUSE FOR DEMOCRACY.

The Bicentennial of Congress
U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND:

As part of Bicentennial celebration of Congress, in 1988, Congress passed legislation creating the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission for the specific purpose of making historic improvements and acquisitions for the U.S. Capitol.

While the U.S. Capitol is the world's greatest symbol of freedom and democracy, experience has demonstrated that public funds are inadequate to ensure proper preservation of this national treasure. Important programs to conserve, acquire, and interpret historic furnishings, significant paintings, and rare manuscripts languish due to the absence of financial support.

As with the State Department Diplomatic Reception Rooms and Blair House, this work will rely on the support of the private sector. The U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission will help coordinate the private sector's important role in assisting a project that will revitalize this center of our representative democracy.

This project is especially important considering the public access to the U.S Capitol complex. Ten million people, both American and foreign citizens, visited the the Capitol complex last year. Unlike the White House and the State Department, visitors to the Capitol have virtually unlimited access to the historic chambers and hallways.

PROJECTS:

Two of the first projects to be undertaken by the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission are the Statue of Freedom and The Capitol Fountains. The Statue of Freedom, the bronze statue

surmounting the Dome of the United States Capitol facing to the East, was mounted on December 2, 1863. The Statue of Freedom needs extensive renovation and preservation work.

The Capitol Fountains were originally part of Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification Program. Private funds acquired the marble for the Fountains, to be located on the Ellipse, but by the time the marble arrived, funding for their installation had been cut from the budget. (Attached is complete background on these projects)

In addition to renovation and restoration efforts, the Commission will solicit fine art and other property, consistent with the period, from individuals.

EVENT:

To commemorate the Bicentennial of Congress and launch the fundraising efforts of the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission, a Gala dinner will be held June 20, 1989, at the Pension Building.

Preston Robert Tisch, ^{straged initial} Chairman of the Bicentennial Celebration, is leading the private fundraising effort for the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission. Hosting the Gala will be Senator Robert Byrd, Chair of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Senate and Rep. Lindy Boggs, Chair of the Commission on the Bicentenary of the U.S. House. Leadership from both the House and the Senate will attend the Gala which hopes to raise \$1 million for the Commission.