



COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE NATIONAL CAPITOL  
1218 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

TO: Members of the Society of Architectural Historians.

The historic east facade of the United States Capitol is in imminent danger of destruction. Plans are being made at this moment to rebuild the central portion of the east front in marble thirty-two feet forward of its present position, thus obliterating the original facade designed by Dr. William Thornton, and approved by George Washington. Your Society has taken the following stand on this issue:

"At the Annual Meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians in Washington, on January 31, 1958, the anniversary of President Washington's formal approval of Thornton's design for a Capitol for our new nation, it was unanimously voted to address the President of the United States.

"The Society of Architectural Historians wishes to urge the President's most thoughtful consideration and intervention to assure for posterity the preservation of the historic east facade which constitutes one of the few unchanged portions of the Capitol's original structure.

"The Capitol has become, during its 150 years, a symbol of our national growth and spirit, not only to Americans but to all peoples as well. In its deepest sense, this symbolism is bound up in the actual forms and materials which have sheltered since our first struggling years the Congress which has epitomized our democratic way of life. Any threat to destroy or impair such an irreplaceable symbol must therefore be viewed as a loss of the gravest consequence that only your personal intervention can avert.

/s/ Walter L. Creese,  
President."

This is urgent. Building contracts may be awarded in a few weeks!

Bills have been introduced in Congress to block the destruction of the east front. The Senate bill, S-2883, was introduced by Senators H. Alexander Smith (R.-N.J.), Clifford P. Case (R.-N.J.), Hubert Humphrey (D.-Minn.), and Joseph S. Clark (D.-Pa.). House bills were introduced by Congressman Henry S. Reuss (D.-Wisc.), H.R. 9238; William B. Widnall (R.-N.J.), H. R. 9595, and Fred Schwengel (R.-Iowa), H. R. 9510.

The most effective way you can support us is to wire or write your congressmen at once, stating that you believe the historic east front of the United States Capitol should be preserved without change, and that you urge his support of these bills.

Simply address your congressmen at the United States Capitol, Washington, D. C.