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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

July 15, 1981

SUBJECT: Tercentenary Brochure and Capitol Anniversary Program

TO: The Honorable Joseph Pitts

FROM: Representative James L. Wright, Jr.

Tercentenary Brochure: A brochure is being prepared for publication that will include historical data relating to William Penn, his initial contacts with Pennsylvania, the creation of the first frames of government - generally covering the era of 1681-1683.

Also printed in the brochure will be an explanation of the word Tercentenary, and the distinction between the Julian and Gregorian calendar, both in use 300 years ago.

A summer intern is compiling the necessary data needed to complete the brochure. Prior to printing, the script will be given to several individuals for critiquing. This brochure will be available for general distribution.

Special Philatelic Hand Stamped Collection - A machine cancellation stamp has been ordered for use at the Dauphin County Post Office. Individuals wanting this special stamped cancellation can make their request known to the postmaster the week of October 5 through 10. Also, a hand cancellation stamp, with the same design, will be available in the Capitol rotunda the day of the 75th celebration October 5, 1981. Two individuals from the postal service will be conducting the operation. Costs of approximately \$60 to \$80 are involved in manufacturing of the die hub and adapting the post office stamp machine.

Official State Medal - The Franklin Mint has been officially designated by HR 23 to strike the medal commemorating the 300th anniversary of the Commonwealth and the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the Capitol. The medal contains on the obverse side, a sculpted design of the capitol building with the words "State Capitol - 75th Anniversary - October 4, 1906-1981"; and on the reverse side a sculpted design of the Coat-of-Arms of the state, with the words "Pennsylvania Tercentenary 1681-1981". The medallion has received final approval and the design went to the presses, July 10, 1981.

Invitation to President of the United States - A letter of invitation had been sent March 16, 1981 to President Reagan asking his consideration in joining our celebration on October 5 by rededicating the Pennsylvania Capitol. A letter was received from the White House dated June 24, 1981 that "pressing demands on the Presidents schedule this fall preclude his acceptance of this special invitation". It has been suggested that an invitation be sent to Vice President George Bush.

Theodore Roosevelt, III - A resident of Pennsylvania, Mr. Roosevelt, grandson of the late President Roosevelt, has expressed great interest in attending the Capitol's 75th rededication ceremonies. A letter of invitation is being prepared to send to the gentleman.

Postcards - Capitol scenes 1906 and 1981 could be printed indicating initial dedication and rededication at the 75th anniversary. Postcards of the Capitol are in demand and have been requested at various times by visitors and constituents. The cards would make an inexpensive souvenir and funds could also be used towards Capitol restoration.

House Cleaning - As with any open house, a thorough housecleaning should be mandatory. Perhaps the additional hiring of student interns by both the House and Senate and D.G.S., who would also have supervisors overseeing that proper measures are taken. Also consultants from the William Penn Museum advising on appropriate cleaning solutions and techniques. This work should begin promptly, and should not involve any major or special cleaning techniques such as will be involved in future restoration, but will serve as a general housecleaning.

Proposed Schedule of Events for Capitol Rededication

October 4, 1906 Thursday (Original date of dedication)
October 5, 1981 Monday (Proposed date of re-dedication)

1. Birthday Party - Governor Thornburgh could have a giant birthday cake for the 75 year old capitol. Special invitations could be mailed (copy of the original invitation attached with this report) to special guests, and hand given for mass distribution, ie PHMC, Chamber of Commerce, D.G.S. tour guides, Legislature, etc. Cake cutting at 12:00 pm would be the official start of the two day festivities.
2. Special Legislation - A special session held in the House chamber at 1:30 pm, could include addresses by the Governor, the special guest, the Speaker and President Pro Tempore of Senate, with special introduction by House members of other invited guests such as Theodore Roosevelt III, and a John Harris descendant, perhaps presenting a copy of the original deed given by Harris for the land the Capitol is located on. Descendants of workers who may have assisted in the building of the Capitol, if any can be located, would also add to the significance of the occasion. The presentation of medals would also be conducted at this time with recognition to the Franklin print.
3. Rededication Ceremony - Rotunda - At 3:00 pm a brief rededication could take place in the Rotunda at the bronze plaque that President Roosevelt stood 75 years ago. Remarks could be made by the Governor, the special guest, and a member of the Roosevelt family.
4. Souvenir Stand - Have temporary stand located in or near Rotunda for sale of official state medals, postcards and rededication programs. This stand could be operated by a private, non-profit community organization, with all proceeds going into the Captiol Restoration Trust Fund.
5. Philatelic Stamp - From 9:00 am to 5:00 pm a stand will be set up and operated by the Dauphin County Post Office for the special 75th Capitol rededication cancellation stamp. Individuals wanting envelopes and programs stamped will have access to this service.
6. Balloon Flight - Lift off would take place at the northeast side of the Capitol (helicopter pad) at approximately 5:30 - 6:00 pm. Flyers (broadsides) can be printed and mass distributed indicating this event which would be typical of an early balloon ascension and would also be a collectors item.
7. Concert and Fireworks - A concert held at river front, 7:00 pm, not unlike those presently held, but including music played that President Roosevelt, Governor Pennypacker and guests may have listened to during a similar concert 75 years ago. Fireworks could follow the concert.



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG**

July 17, 1981

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear President Reagan:

We have pending an invitation to you to honor Pennsylvania during its 300th anniversary by rededicating our State Capitol Building on its 75th birthday during the week of October 5.

Seventy-five years ago, the Capitol was dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt. On this year's occasion, Theodore Roosevelt, III, has been invited.

We do understand and appreciate the demands made upon your time by duties of office and by requests for your participation in activities throughout the Nation. We want very much to be your host in October.

However, if circumstances make your acceptance of our invitation impossible, we ask that you request that Vice President George Bush represent you and the Federal government in the rededication of our State Capitol. Whatever decision can be reached quickly will assist us, since we have not proceeded with specific planning in the absence of a decision on whether or not we can structure the event around the type of program made possible by President Roosevelt's participation on October 4, 1906.

We are providing a copy of this amended request to the signators of the March 16, 1981, letter of invitation, to Senators John Heinz and Arlen Specter, and to Vice President George Bush.

With respects, I am

Very truly yours,

MATTHEW J. RYAN

MJR:tm



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

July 15, 1981

Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, III
c/o Janney Montgomery Scott
510 Penn Center Plaza
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

On March 14, 1981, Pennsylvania observed the 300th anniversary of its birth as a providence. It was on that date in 1681 that William Penn received the Charter for Pennsylvania land from King Charles II.

During 1981 and 1982 we will be commemorating our heritage with special events on dates which were of key importance in formulating the Commonwealth government in its first two years of existence.

We believe that it is appropriate for us to also commemorate the dedication of our beautiful State Capitol which will reach its 75th birthday on October 4, 1981. On that date, 75 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt was Pennsylvania's guest and presided over the dedication of our Capitol.

A bronze plate is inlaid in the floor of the Rotunda of the Capitol on the exact spot upon which your grandfather, President Roosevelt, stood to deliver his remarks.

We request that you give the highest of consideration to being one of the Commonwealth's guest speakers on October 5, 1981, and join in our celebration of rededicating our Capitol.

Very truly yours,

MATTHEW J. RYAN

MJR:cs