

MAJORITY POLICY CHAIRMAN



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

May 7, 1981

Honorable Matthew J. Ryan  
139 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Matt:

In regards to the continuation of the HR 237 Committee,  
I have reviewed the draft and agree with its contents.

I look forward to continuing the work of this Committee.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Brandt

KEB:jg

MATTHEW J. RYAN  
THE SPEAKER



139 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120  
717-787-4610

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

April 29, 1981

Honorable Kenneth E. Brandt  
100 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Kenny:

As you know, the work of the special House-Senate Committee created by HR 237 of last session was not completed. I believe it is appropriate that this session create a new committee to further the work we did last session and to bring it to completion.

As a step toward this, I have had drafted the attached letter which summarizes the work done by the HR 237 Committee last session and outlines the need for follow-up action this session.

I believe we should, with whatever corrections or additions the Committee wishes to make, issue this letter of report to all members, and then act to create a new committee of the House and Senate.

May I have your comments?

With appreciation, I am

Very truly yours,

  
MATTHEW J. RYAN

MJR:ts

SUGGESTED REPORT OF HR 237  
COMMITTEE OF 1979-80

SUBJECT: Report of work done by the Bi-Partisan House-Senate Special Committee created last session by HR 237 (PN 3474); and a recommendation that a committee of similar nature be reconstituted by the membership of this Session.

TO: Membership of the 1981-82 General Assembly

FROM: Members of HR 237 Committee of 1979-80: Senators Edward P. Zemprelli, Henry G. Hager, Ralph W. Hess, James R. Kelley, James R. Lloyd, Jr., Richard A. Snyder, Representatives Matthew J. Ryan, K. Leroy Irvis, Kenneth E. Brandt, Thomas A. Michlovic, Joseph R. Pitts, James P. Ritter and Kurt Zwikl

HR 237 (1979-80) outlined three areas of activity for the special Committee. A copy of HR 237 is attached. The three areas of responsibility were:

1. Make recommendations to ensure that the State Capitol Building, its furnishings and artifacts are properly cared for in all future time.
2. Make recommendations to develop a coordinated effort to preserve and make appropriately available to the public the historical literature, records, and documents relating to the creation and maintenance of the three hundred year old Pennsylvania General Assembly.
3. Make recommendations to ensure appropriate involvement of Legislators and the General Assembly in the observance of the 300th anniversary of Pennsylvania's founding in 1981-82.

A productive working relationship has been established and should be continued, with the leadership and staff personnel of the Historical and Museum Commission, the State Library, and the Department of General Services.

Because of the late creation of the HR 237 Committee last session, and the existence of other matters which earned priority of time and attention, the Special Committee did not file a formal report. Rather it filed a compilation of work documents which are an invaluable resource. Needed now is a continuation of this work. A draft of a Resolution to accomplish this is enclosed.

The proposed resolution for the 1981-82 session excludes reference to Tercentenary activity because the Commonwealth is now observing its 300th Birthday. The House of Representatives, through HR 23 has created a special observance Committee to initiate activity by the House where appropriate to it as an institution, and to cooperate with the Senate, the Executive branch, and with any local governmental or private sector institutions in observance of the Tercentenary.

There is an urgent need to establish a continuing program of involvement by the General Assembly in the other two areas of primary concern addressed by last session's HR 237 Committee; and as spelled out in the proposed Resolution by the 1981-82 session.

They are:

I. THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, AND COMPLEX, AND ITS FURNISHINGS AND ARTIFACTS:

The long needed expansion of the Capitol to provide adequate space and facilities for the General Assembly and the office of the Governor is soon to begin. In the near future, the House and Senate will be the sole occupants of the Main Capitol Building. With that condition will come the responsibility to be good stewards of this public possession.

In meeting that responsibility, the General Assembly will have the opportunity to restore much of the Capitol Building to its original condition, and equip it with historic furnishings and artifacts, and make it more available to the people. Most important is to establish through law a program of proper maintenance and of care.

Work and study to accomplish this mission are well advanced. A bi-partisan House-Senate Committee can be invaluable at this time to bring diverse interests together, consolidate the best of their work, and secure a permanent commitment of the General Assembly.

II. THE MAINTENANCE AND COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS AND LITERARY WORKS RELATING TO THE CREATION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The Membership of the HR 237 Committee, found a treasure of historic documents and literary works in the possession of the Commonwealth. The Committee found that the care, protection, preservation, and further development of such works has been historically neglected by the Commonwealth's government.

EXAMPLE: The State Library was created by the General Assembly when Benjamin Franklin was serving as the Clerk of the Assembly. He was instructed to purchase statutory laws from England. He purchased 424 volumes. Most of these remain in the Commonwealth's possession. However, the HR 237 Committee found them -- and other rare works -- without security against theft or fire. The cause of this was based upon the fact that few had ever heard of, or paid attention to, the State Library professional staff.

Emergency action was taken to assist the professional librarians in the protection of such works.

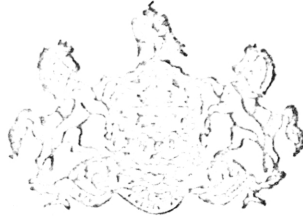
Urgently needed is a permanent commitment by the General Assembly to not only preserve these works and make them known to and available to the people; but to begin a program of aquisition to expand the collection.

The Committee of HR 237, had the good fortune to assist Dr. Roland Bauman, Chief Division of archive and manuscripts of the Historical and Museum Commission, when he attended an international convention of archivists in England in 1980. He extended his visit, and filed with the Committee of HR 237 an initial catalogue of works in England which relate to the creation of the General Assembly and of the Commonwealth.

EXAMPLE: Though the State Archives building is of recent vintage it contains no fire security (sprinkler) system. This is urgently needed. The need is made most pressing by the fact that a program of micro-filming has been neglected, and the Archives is the custodian of rare and necessary documents and records with no other copies in existance.

EXAMPLE: The need to develop a Library of the General Assembly, internally as an institution, is well established. Such a library, serving both the House and the Senate, could upgrade the research capacity of the General Assembly through access to State and Nation-wide Library resources, and could provide a long-needed facility for evaluating, and maintaining, historically valuable General Assembly records of activities and of membership.

In each of these two subject areas recommended for continuing bipartisan, House-Senate study and action, an informed Legislative membership and united effort by all House and Senate Leaders is required.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

January 8, 1981

Honorable Pete Wambach, Jr.  
107 South Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Pete:

It has come to my attention that you have salvaged the old tower clock, originally located on the Main Capitol building and later relocated to the tower on the telegraph building.

Due to the historic nature of this artifact, it would be an ideal piece to place in the collection of the Capitol memorabilia.

At an appropriate time, if you would be agreeable, a loan agreement could be arranged with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, with provisions to display the clock in future capitol museum exhibits.

Very truly yours,

MATTHEW J. RYAN

MJR:cb

cc: Bruce Bazelon - William Penn Museum

Ken,

I found out about this clock and Matt sent a letter over as a matter of record so the museum knows where it is located.

Bentham

1. Inspect Capitol Building and Grounds. Recommend repair where needed.
2. Summarize status of plans for expansion of Capitol Building complex, along with a time-table and description of complex upon completion.
3. Recommend a system whereby the Capitol will remain under good stewardship for all future times, to protect it against neglect and/or thieves and "re-modelers".
4. Develop concise pamphlet on the history of the building.
5. Inventory and provide for security of all equipment, etc. which ~~belong~~ belongs to the Capitol Building. This includes ~~the~~ furnishings from the previous building as well as equipment such as wall-mounted light fixtures, chandeliers, etc. which are in storage under custody of DOGS.
6. A program to seek the return of items in private custody which were taken from the Capitol. (Cupidors, etc.)
7. Recommendations for strengthening the Tour Guide service.
8. Revision of materials explaining the history of the General Assembly, and its modern day role and function...and the procedures of law-making.
9. Recommend production of a film depicting the heritage of the GENERAL Assembly, and an explanation of the "legislative process". This film to be keyed to the contents of the explanatory pamphlet. The film to be available to schools, citizen meetings. It would be shown to all ~~groups~~ groups visiting the General Assembly....and, this will require a showing room with a capacity of about 50 people.

*How Ball*

*Terry D. S. Jones*

*Terry*

*Spivak*

*Revolving Door  
Inventory Capitol  
Walter Brown*

*Walter Brown*

*S. R. STEVENS - 1968*

Rep. Ken Brandt

9-2-80

II

Report on Research of Capitol Antique Furniture used in Capitol prior to fire of 1897.

As I reported Mr. Edgar, Lay Leader of the Grace United Methodist Church was going to arrange a meeting for me with the Sexton of the church the week of August 25th.

Mr. Edgar called on August 26th and informed me that he had talked with the Sexton about the chairs in storage and was told that these were like the old style "Ice Cream Parlor" chairs with cane seats (since deteriorated) and they were not from the Capitol but were chairs that had been purchased by the church, many years ago, for use in the Sunday School rooms. Furthermore he knew of no furniture from the Capitol in storage at the church.

Thus it turns out that we have reached a temporary deadend in our search, however, we shall continue to follow up any leads that come along.

Bill Brandamore



August 26, 1980

Rep. Ken Brandt  
II

Report on Research of Capitol Antique Furniture used in the Capitol prior to the fire in 1897.

Since my first report of August 14th I submit the following progress. As I had stated my first contact was with Assistant Fire Chief Butts, who referred me to Richard Reese of the Grace Methodist Church, who in turn referred me to Dr. Sherry Bell, former pastor of the church.

On August 19th, I talked with Dr. Bell who thought he recalled seeing a long conference table and some individual chairs in the church at one time. He said "Daddy Seibert would know, but he is deceased". He referred me to Charles E. Edgar, the Lay Leader of the church.

I contacted Mr. Edgar on August 21st. He knows of no conference table but thinks there are some chairs stored in the church building. He will arrange for me to see the church Sexton the week of August 25th. After my visit and search of the storage areas of the Grace United Methodist Church, I will report my progress in "The Search for Yesteryear".

Bill Brandamore

SPECIAL PROJECTS THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE  
HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE IN REGARDS TO THE HISTORY  
OF THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING:

- / Dedicate windows in the Hall of the House
- / Exposition of construction
- / Memorabilia
- / Displaying of Historical Documents in room provided for that purpose
  - Documentary of the General Assembly - incorporate Biography of a Bill (Public T.V.)
  - Three Head of Government
- / Well located adequate space
  - Reenactment in the Rotunda (signing of the Declaration of Independence, etc.)
  - More leeway for tour guides; more expansive tours, i.e. select groups, open more rooms.
  - Urge the Members to contact their Local Governments to participate
  - Retain Librarian
  - Reassemble Modernization Commission (Governor Scranton)
  - Barnard Statues
  - Renovation of Buildings
  - Take stock account - decide which rooms shall remain original and which may be renovated.
  - Maintenance and Guide Service transferred to General Assembly
  - Establish Building Committee in House Rules
  - Pagentry - Independence Hall
  - Newspaper article on old artifacts
  - Promote Pa. History in School Code

KEN:

Here are the three basic responsibilities of the Committee to be created by HR 237 -- and which might well be met with a simple sub-committee structure:

1. Study of Capitol Building,,, identification of historic equipment, etc. which must be retained....the reclamation of that which has been removed....a proposal to ensure that the Building and its immediate grounds will be under good stewardship for all times...and a proposal to create a small exhibit space for visitors.

2. Coordination <sup>of</sup> General Assembly participation in the Commonwealth's Tercentenary observance which begins with Charter Day on March 14, 1981... and which will include observance of 300 years of history during the year 1982. This sub-committee should work with the Governor's designees who, with the help of Legislative members of the Historical and Museum Commission (Wright-Zwickl-Dwyer-Keely). We need to recommend specific activities for the General Assembly and its individual members.

3. "a study to identify, gather, and preserve legislative documents and historic works". Preliminary work on this has been started. A wealth of material exists...all scattered....not properly catalogued...some in need of repair....)

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

THE SPEAKER

July 3, 1980

Honorable Kenneth E. Brandt  
245 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Ken:

Pursuant to House Resolution 237, Printer's No. 3738 (House concurring in Senate amendments on July 3, 1980), I am hereby appointing you to serve on the Bipartisan Committee to gather and preserve legislative documents and historical works; to preserve the historical status of the Main Capitol Building; to provide historical information to the public on the Commonwealth's heritage and legislative process; and to coordinate the activities of the General Assembly with Pennsylvania's Tercentary Celebration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jack Seltzer".

H. JACK SELTZER  
Speaker of the House

HJS/mjs