

torically significant buildings in this country have been destroyed during the last 20 years" and calling for the preservation of the Lafayette Square buildings.

It is a brash generation, indeed, which will destroy all physical evidences of its great heritage.

Two men, William Walton, a painter, and John L. Moore, Administrator of the General Services Administration—neither one of them an elected official and, indeed, only one of them a public official accountable to the people of the United States—like pharaohs or reigning monarchs of an earlier and unenlightened period, having walked around Lafayette Square, decided to proceed with the destruction of the Lafayette Square buildings.

I was always taught that this was a representative government, and that Federal officials were elected or appointed to carry out the will of the people. Otherwise, why have elections? Perhaps this is just an antique Republican notion, but it is one which I have held for many, many years. Elections could be won on this matter, since 80 million people visit our historic sites and buildings each year.

The situation regarding the historic buildings on Lafayette Square is unique, I think.

No public hearings were held by either the Public Works Committee of the Senate or the House on the question of whether the historic buildings on Lafayette Square should be saved.

So, here is the sequence.

First, no public hearings by the Senate or House. Second, the decision is taken, without such public hearings, to destroy the historic Lafayette Square buildings. Third, neither the Senate nor the House is permitted to vote on the issue of the destruction of the Lafayette Square buildings. Fourth, the Administrator of General Services, John L. Moore, and the painter, William Walton, walk around the square and, communing together, decide finally to ignore the people of the United States and to destroy the historic Lafayette Square buildings: the Dolly Madison house, the Benjamin Tayloe house, and the Belasco Theater.

A German language publication, the Washington (D.C.) Journal, reported, on May 5, this year, that steps were under consideration to restore the Belasco Theater as the Beethoven Operahouse, as a bond of friendship between the American and German people. The cost would be borne by the German Government, it is said.

Some months ago a bipartisan drive saved New York City's Carnegie Hall—certainly no greater a cultural facility than the Belasco Theater—from destruction. The Carnegie Hall drive was headed by Mayor Robert Wagner, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Isaac Stern.

The New York Times reported on April 8, 1961, that President Kennedy proposed on April 7 that a \$10 million U.S. contribution be made to preserve ancient Nubian temples and other monuments on the Upper Nile.

The New York Times declared:

"He asked Congress to authorize U.S. participation in an international effort to save antiquities marked for inundation by the Soviet-financed Aswan Dam, which is being built in the United Arab Republic.

"The President suggested that the United States finance alone the estimated \$6 million cost of preserving the "Pearl of Egypt," a group of temples on the Island of Philae, between the old and new Aswan Dams. They now are submerged part of the year.

"Mr. Kennedy also proposed that the United States take part in preserving lesser temples both in the United Arab Republic and in the Sudan, at a cost of \$2,500,000, and that it contribute \$1,500,000 to speed extensive archeological and prehistory research in areas now unexplored but threatened with flooding."

If the Nile treasures and Harvard Yard can be saved by the intervention of President Kennedy then, surely, the historic buildings on Lafayette Square—which are so intimately associated with our own national history—can be saved.

I include at this point, the New York Times article on the Nile treasures to which I have referred, and the resolution adopted during the 70th Annual