

The following statement was read Thursday morning, April 20, 1961, by Miss Gertrude S. Carraway, of New Bern, N.C., honorary president general, during the 70th Annual Continental Congress of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, in Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C. Miss Carraway offered the motion, seconded by Mrs. F. Clagett Hoke, of Jeffersontown, Ky., and was passed unanimously, with applause, by the large assemblage of members, NSDAR:

"Too late for consideration by the resolutions committee, a matter of historical importance to all patriotic Americans has been called to our attention by Congressmen belonging to both political parties.

"One-fourth of the historically significant buildings in this country have been destroyed during the last 20 years.

"By decision of two officials, without public hearings, I am informed, the houses of history fronting on Lafayette Square here, a veritable forecourt for the White House, are slated, unnecessarily and unwisely, for immediate removal to make way for a Federal building.

"Both Democratic and Republican Congressmen are gravely concerned and have earnestly requested the aid and interest of Daughters of the American Revolution, not only to help save the Dolly Madison House, the Benjamin Tayloe House, and other historical and cultural structures in the Nation's Capital but also to assist with the passage of congressional legislation to provide for the publication of a compilation of historic sites throughout the country and for the preservation of antiquities of national significance in all parts of the United States.

"From its beginning one of the main objectives of our National Society, as set forth in our bylaws, has been the protection of historical spots. Our members have long realized that from living history we are much more apt to want to prove worthy of our rich heritage by working for better citizenship in the present and a greater Nation in the future.

"Due largely to our DAR examples and teachings, citizens in general are at long last becoming increasingly interested in American history and the value of holding relics of past importance in trust for the generations to come.

"Bills along these lines have been recently introduced and sponsored by Congressmen of both parties. In my judgment, they merit and deserve the careful study and active support of our members in their endeavors to stop the wanton destruction of historical, cultural and architectural gems.

"Accordingly, I move that Daughters of the American Revolution be urged to write to the President of the United States and to Congressmen registering support and interest in efforts to preserve historic sites and other symbols of our American heritage."

In February 1961 I introduced a bill to establish a Commission on the Cultural Resources in the Nation's Capital, and to provide a comprehensive plan for the effective utilization of such resources in carrying out a long-range program to make the Nation's Capital equal in cultural matters to the capital cities of other great nations.

Similar measures were introduced by Senators John Sherman Cooper and Wayne Morse, and by our colleague, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Powell. So here is a bipartisan measure which deserves Presidential support. Perhaps this is forthcoming, because, in a speech to fund-drive workers of the National Symphony Orchestra, the new Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Philip H. Coombs, called for a great overall plan to give the significant overarching cultural climate needed to make it possible for the Nation's Capital to take its rightful place besides other capital cities of the world with regard to the fine arts.

A study by the Library of Congress which the distinguished gentleman from Delaware, Mr. McDowell, and Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, inserted in the Congressional Record last year showed that the municipal government of Washington, D.C., spends annually only the piddling sum of \$16,000 on the fine arts. This can be compared to the \$800,000 which San Francisco, a smaller city, spends on the arts. It was facts such as these, doubtless, which led the New York Times, Time magazine, the Reporter magazine, the Christian Science Monitor, and other publications to deplore the lack of cultural progress of the Nation's Capital.

The Nation's Capital has been described in such unflattering terms as "hick town" and "cultural backwater" by these national publications. W. H. Kiplin-