

Opera House to the Beethoven Opera House. Certainly he would have strong support from the Republican side of the aisle in such a historic development.

I include as part of my remarks the article from the Washington Journal which has been translated for me by the Library of Congress:

"WILL BELASCO THEATER BECOME 'BEETHOVEN OPERA HOUSE'?—GERMAN INTEREST IN THE RESTORATION OF THE OLD THEATER ON LAFAYETTE SQUARE—ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLARS NEEDED

"During the past week talks had been conducted in the congressional office rooms and in the cultural department of the German Embassy, which proved that the project, which is especially close to the hearts of all Washingtonians, is also of great interest to the German authorities. Other European countries, among them Italy and the Netherlands, in the past years expressed their gratitude to the United States for its active postwar assistance by donating representative gifts to the American Federal Capital. Within the Federal Republic, the desire to give a lasting token of this gratitude in a suitable form, has been repeatedly expressed. Now a project is being considered, which has a special symbolic significance.

"For years a struggle of prominent citizens and numerous organizations of Washington has been going on to preserve historical buildings on Lafayette Square, that park in front of the White House which, among other things, honors such revolutionary generals as Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben and Thaddeus Kosciuszko. One of the buildings which are threatened to be torn down by the renewal plans of certain ambitious circles, is the old Belasco Theater which, since 1940, has been used for other purposes. Today it serves as a USO soldiers home. From 1895 to 1940, this chamber theater was one of the few cultural centers of our Capital City and generations of Washingtonians experienced unforgettable artistic adventures in its cozy rooms. To be sure, the theater is not large, but is it not a fact, that it is the small opera houses and stages of Europe that belong to the jewels, to those places where one can make music, sing and spin yarns without enormous costs?

"BEETHOVEN OPERA HOUSE IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL

"Well, German circles now think not only of rescuing this Washington theater from destruction (in which task they will need an active support of uncounted citizen's associations of Washington and the whole country), but also of its restoration and, while preserving the traditional frame, of converting it into a snug opera house for our city. The name of Ludwig von Beethoven would suit more than any other to symbolize what had always united America and Germany in spite of all storms and years of war.

"We have learned from the circles which are interested in the preservation of the theater, that the total cost of the restoration of the Belasco Theater would amount to about \$500,000—DM2 million. Recently, the Federal Republic offered DM1 million for the preservation of the Nubian Temple of Kalabasha in Egypt. In spite of all savings appeals to all free governments, those in Bonn know that cultural needs require sacrifices which are never spent needlessly. Perhaps, a part of these expenses could be met from contributions by those industrial enterprises and institutions which were able to regain their world importance with the aid of the Marshall plan money. In this way, the gift would not be just a Government matter, but an expression of gratitude of the German people. Congressman Carroll D. Kearns, Republican, of Pennsylvania, who was quite happy to learn about these plans and who, together with his Democratic and Republican colleagues has taken the stand for the preservation of the buildings on Lafayette Square, told us that a European country could hardly select a better form of the expression of its gratitude to America, than this contribution to the cultural life of the capital city. In the meantime, Mr. Kearns and Congressman Harris B. McDowell, Democrat of Delaware, together with other representatives of the population, continue their campaign for the preservation of the Belasco Theater (which, by the way, has received its name from the unforgettable manager David Belasco), because the original idea of rescuing the theater through the initiative of the American citizens has not been given up. It is possible, however, that an initiative from Bonn will precede these endeavors, and erect a lasting cultural memorial in Washington, in the spirit of American-German friendship."