

"We all know that this square and the buildings surrounding it has a unique importance because it is the view from the front door of the President's home—the White House. Certainly all Americans who are students of history know of the famous historic houses which include the Dolly Madison house, the Tayloe house, and the Belasco Theater. These buildings depict a very important era of American history and are in keeping with the structure of the White House and should be preserved not just as a monument but they could be used for historic or cultural purposes which would perpetuate the heritage for future generations.

"The General Federation of Women's Clubs continuously works for the preservation of the early cultural and historic influences for future generations. We know that there are those who think progress is measured by a new and changing pattern but we would remind them that in a few decades the structures of today will be old and obsolete and will be torn down but let us remember that buildings of today are not symbolic of our early history. Only the authentic buildings of the early days of our national development depict our progress and our heritage."

"We do not want to see our generation destroy things that have long been accepted as historic. We believe that the beautiful surroundings of the President's home should be preserved and the White House should not be situated in the shadow of high, modern stone buildings.

"We appreciate what Senator Ellender has said about the preservation of the Lafayette Park area and we think his leadership will surely be worthy of sincere consideration. We commend Senator Ellender for his attitude and his willingness to devote much effort to a cause that some feel is lost.

"I should like to urge that action taken by the 86th Congress to have the buildings on the east side of Lafayette Square demolished be rescinded. I have great hopes this will be done because President Kennedy, when a Senator in the 86th Congress, presented a bill to preserve them and because both the President and our lovely First Lady have the wisdom and the desire to restore the White House to its original charm, it surely would be a grave mistake, at the very time they are making every possible effort in restoring the White House, to destroy the historical surroundings. Surely it is more pleasant for the occupants of the White House to look out upon the lovely surroundings than to look out upon cold stone structure that overshadow their home.

"Again I wish to commend those who would preserve the beautiful Lafayette Square area in our Nation's Capital, and I trust your efforts will be fully rewarded.

"Most sincerely,

"MRS. E. LEE OZBIEN, *President.*"

[From the New York Herald Tribune, Mar. 26, 1961]

"MORE ABOUT SAVING THE METROPOLITAN"

"Judging by readers' letters to the editor of the Herald Tribune, there is considerable public interest in the future of the present Metropolitan Opera House.

"The question, to state it once again, is not whether the old house should continue to serve as the home of the Metropolitan Opera Co. after 1964. That is when the Met will move to its new home at Lincoln Center and no one has any thought that it should try to remain at its old stand a moment longer than it has to.

"The question is what will happen to the old opera house once the present company pulls out? Should it be torn down and replaced by an office building, as the Met management desires? Or should an attempt be made to preserve it as an auditorium that still can play a useful part in New York's entertainment and cultural activities?

"Several correspondents have pointed out the deficiencies of the present Met building from the standpoint of audiences and performers alike. Shortcomings it has in abundance, and some of these may have to be corrected if the building is preserved.

"But even when allowances are made for the side seats with no view of the stage, the inadequate storage facilities, the cramped quarters and outdated equipment, the fact remains that foreign ballet companies and other visitors have been able to play at a profit in the old theater on 39th Street. And it seems