

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Public Buildings Act of 1959 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sections:

"SEC. 18. The Administrator is authorized to conduct a joint study, together with the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, for the purpose of determining the feasibility of constructing, near the Supreme Court of the United States, adequate facilities to house the Court of Claims, the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals, and the Tax Court of the United States. As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit a report on the results of such study, together with such recommendations as the three agencies may deem advisable, to the Committees on Public Works of the Senate and House of Representatives.

"SEC. 19. In keeping with the national policy of protecting and preserving historic American buildings and sites for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States, the Administrator shall preserve and maintain the Dolly Madison House, the Benjamin Tayloe House, and the Belasco Theater on Lafayette Square in the District of Columbia, for historical, cultural, and civil purposes. The Administrator is authorized and directed to restore the Belasco Theater to a condition at least equal to its condition at the time it was acquired by the Federal Government. The National Park Service, and the District of Columbia Recreation Department, shall advise and assist the Administrator in the restoration and management of the Belasco Theater as a municipal art center. The Administrator is authorized to accept contributions of money, which shall be deductible for tax purposes, for the purpose of assisting him in the restoration of the Belasco Theater for cultural and civic purposes."

[From the Congressional Record, Apr. 21, 1960]

AMENDMENT OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS ACT OF 1959, RELATING TO LOCATION OF CERTAIN COURT BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, I introduce, for appropriate reference, a bill to provide for a study of the best location for certain Federal court buildings in order to preserve Lafayette Square for cultural and educational purposes.

The bill calls for a study by the Administrator of General Services, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Commission of Fine Arts of the feasibility of constructing a building for the U.S. Claims and Customs Courts in the area bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue on the north, 17th Street on the east, New York Avenue on the south, and 18th Street on the west.

My bill would also provide for preservation and maintenance of the Dolly Madison House, the Benjamin Tayloe House, and the Belasco Theater.

A proposal now being considered for construction of the necessary court building on Madison Place on the east side of Lafayette Square would mean destruction of the gracious Dolly Madison and Benjamin Tayloe Houses as well as the theater. I believe that these cherished reminders of our history and the historic spirit of the entire square should be maintained.

As we plan for the future of our Nation's Capital, we must remember that our city is a living lesson in our Nation's history as well as the center of our Government operations.

In locating Federal buildings in the District of Columbia, we must think not only of Government services for our children, but of preserving for them the beauties of our American heritage.

We have not always guarded this heritage as we could and should. I hope that we shall not fail in this opportunity to maintain one corner of our past in the heart of the District.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

The bill (S. 3403) to amend the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to provide a study as to the best location for a new building for certain courts of the United States, to preserve the Dolly Madison House, and other historic buildings near the White House for cultural and educational purposes in keeping with the national policy enunciated in the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act, and for other purposes, introduced by Mr. Humphrey, was received, read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Public Works.