

[S. 3403, 86th Cong., 2d sess.]

A BILL 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

*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 and directed 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 in the area bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue on the north, Seventeenth Street on the east, New York Avenue on the south, and Eighteenth Street on the west, in the northwest sector of Washington, District of Columbia, or near the Supreme Court of the United States, adequate facilities to house the Court of Claims, and the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals 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. (a) 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 near the White House in the District of Columbia for historical, civic, cultural and educational purposes and to further the purposes of the Act of June 5, 1860 (12 Stat. 35), chartering the National Gallery and School of Arts; the Act of March 3, 1863 (36 U.S.C. 251-253), chartering the National Academy of Sciences; the Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1093), providing for a National Conservatory of Music; the Act of March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1438), chartering the General Federation of Women's Clubs for educational, literary, artistic, and scientific culture; the Act of June 3, 1906 (34 Stat. 804), chartering the National Education Association of the United States; the Act of February 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 660), chartering the National Institute of Arts and Letters; the Act of April 17, 1916 (39 Stat. 51), chartering the American Academy of Arts and Letters; the Act of July 5, 1935 (49 Stat. 457), chartering the American National Theater and Academy; the Act of October 26, 1949 (16 U.S.C. 468-468e), establishing the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and the Act of August 1, 1956 (36 U.S.C. 661-680), chartering the National Music Council. 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, and to accept contributions of money which shall constitute 'charitable contributions' for purposes of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (relating to deductions for charitable, etc., contributions and gifts), for the purpose of assisting him in the restoration of the Belasco Theater.

"(b) The President is authorized to create such interagency committees and advisory committees as in his judgment may be of assistance in carrying out the purposes of this section. The provisions of section 214 of the Act of May 3, 1945 (59 Stat. 134; U.S.C. 691), shall be applicable to any interagency committee created pursuant to this section."

[From the Congressional Record, Mar. 6, 1961]

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS DEPLORES THE APPARENTLY IMPENDING DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS FRONTING ON LAFAYETTE SQUARE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE FEDERAL BUILDINGS IN THEIR PLACE

(Extension of remarks of Hon. Carroll D. Kearns, of Pennsylvania, in the House of Representatives, Monday, Mar. 6, 1961)

MR. KEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I have been assured by Joseph Watterson, editor of the Journal of the American Institute of Architects, that the American Institute of Architects "deplores the apparently impending destruction of certain buildings fronting on Lafayette Square and the construction of certain large Federal buildings in their place."