

third story to it and moved the entrance to H Street. It was occupied during the war by General McClellan while Wilkes was on sea duty. A dramatic incident illustrating the wide range of loyalties on the square was the arrest by Captain Wilkes of his neighbor, Senator John Slidell of Louisiana, who naturally had joined the Confederacy and had been appointed Minister to France. On his way he was taken off the British steamer *Trent* by Captain Wilkes, causing the famous Trent affair and a violent controversy with Great Britain. From 1887 to 1952 the house was the home of the Cosmos Club, involving more alterations. Still intact, it is now the property of the Government, and faces early destruction.

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

IT IS A BRASH GENERATION INDEED WHICH WILL DESTROY ALL PHYSICAL EVIDENCES OF ITS GREAT HERITAGE

Extension of Remarks of Hon. Carroll D. Kearns, of Pennsylvania, in the House of Representatives, Monday, March 6, 1961

Mr. KEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the distinguished editor of the Journal of the American Institute of Architects, Joseph Watterson, has written me that: "It is a brash generation indeed which will destroy all physical evidences of its great heritage."

Mr. Watterson mentions the well-known interest of President John F. Kennedy in the preservation of the buildings fronting on Lafayette Square, an interest demonstrated in the most forceful and significant way when, on March 24, 1960, he introduced S. 3280 and, in a speech on the floor of the Senate at that time, declared that: "There is pending before the Public Works Committee a plan to locate the Court of Claims in Lafayette Square. This means that many of the historic buildings now fronting that square will be torn down. The Dolly Madison House, the Benjamin Tayloe House, and the Belasco Theater have long served as an inspiration to generations of Americans who have visited their Capital City. Certainly before any irrevocable action is taken to destroy these buildings to provide a site for a courthouse, other sites should be investigated."

In his letter to me Mr. Watterson says that: "With the interest displayed in the square by the President, and by the introduction of bills in the Congress, new hope has been aroused that perhaps the square is not doomed after all."

Mr. Watterson ended his fine letter by saying that support for the bills which Senators John Sherman Cooper and Wayne Morse have introduced in the other House, and which I have introduced in this one, that is, S. 1020 and H.R. 3982, "will be forthcoming from the AIA and its 13,850 members all over the country."

This is very encouraging news indeed. Only the other day the 600,000 member National Federation of Music Clubs advised me that it has launched a national drive in the 50 States to mobilize support for saving the buildings on Lafayette Square.

In a memorandum to its national officers, its board of directors, its State presidents, and its State legislative chairmen, it is pointed out that:

"It is even more important from the standpoint of history, culture, and economy that similar protection to that given historic buildings elsewhere throughout the United States, such as Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park, and New York's Carnegie Hall, be given the historic buildings on Lafayette Square."

The fine old buildings on Lafayette Square give the Nation's Capital its distinct flavor and charm, and they teach significant lessons in patriotism to the youth of the Nation.

Tourists who come to the Nation's Capital from all over the world as members of conventions, or to attend national meetings, or as families intent on seeing the buildings and the sites where so much history has been made, spend, I have been informed, \$300 million a year.

How many will take the trouble to visit the Nation's Capital if all of its buildings, which are such an intimate part of our Nation's history, are destroyed for the convenience of a few individuals? Not many, I am sure.

Only last year the Congress authorized the spending of up to \$33 million, or one-third of the cost, to save the ancient treasures of the Nile Valley.