

[From the Washington Post, Tuesday, May 24, 1960]

CONCERTED EFFORT MAY SAVE SQUARE

Representative Frank Thompson, Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, warned yesterday that "highway builders are charging through Washington's historic sections to build more offices for bureaucrats." He said that "there will have to be a concerted effort to save Lafayette Square."

Thompson spoke at a meeting at which Mrs. E. Morgan Pryse, a member of the District of Columbia bar, was elected president of the District of Columbia Federation of Women's Clubs.

Thompson, one of the prime movers for the National Cultural Center, also suggested that should its cost of \$75 million delay complete construction in the near future, a plan to go ahead and build it a unit at a time, for immediate use, might be an answer to the problem.

Mrs. Pryse, currently the federation's parliamentarian, is a former president of the Marietta Women's Club and also serves as second vice president of the Entre Nous Club.

Mrs. Pryse was the choice of the federation's nominating committee and was unopposed when the committee presented her name as presidential candidate a month ago.

All women whom Mrs. Pryse selected for her cabinet were in turn endorsed by the clubs of which they are members, preceding the nominating committee's report.

This group, elected yesterday with Mrs. Pryse, at a meeting at the Willard Hotel are:

Mrs. Leonard W. Thomas, first vice president; Woodbridge Book Club.

Mrs. Paul W. Burke, second vice president; Takoma Park Women's Club.

Mrs. Andrew G. Weaver, Sr., recording secretary; Petworth Women's Club.

Mrs. Robert Eugene Bell, assistant recording secretary; Association of Philippine-American Women.

Mrs. Jerry Ness, corresponding secretary; Sportsettes Club.

Mrs. George H. Foster, assistant corresponding secretary; Entre Nous Club.

Mrs. Francis Irving Brook, treasurer; Pro Bonata Club.

Mrs. James G. Stephanson, assistant treasurer; Southeast Women's Club.

Officers will be installed on June 27.

The Navy Mothers Club reported on its history through the years; and it was also announced that the family of Mrs. Stephan Wasile, a member of the Southeast Women's Club, has been selected as the District of Columbia All America Family of the Year. They will fly to Florida on Tuesday for the national competition.

[From the Washington Post, Sunday, Dec. 25, 1960]

CHEERS ARE DUE CAPITAL'S THEATERS

(By Richard L. Coe)

Christmas greetings—and especially to our town's theaters. They have personalities, too.

Historically there's Ford's. Senator Milton Young (Republican, of North Dakota), has been giving it his special care and in time, thanks to the initial push of Melvin D. Hildreth this will get back to its old look of that historic 1865 night.

Not much has changed since 1865 in the way of getting theater tickets. That Good Friday afternoon the Lincolns planned to go that night to see Adah Mencken in "Mazeppa," but someone piously recognized that a bareback riding queen was hardly the thing for that evening. So a messenger was dispatched to change the tickets of the White House party from the National to 10th Street. If you want to buy theater tickets now it's much the same kind of effort though the phone has been invented since.

But queen of our lot remains the National haunted backstage with the ghost of a murdered minor actor, the National's been rolling along on this spot (in five different buildings) since 1835 and all players in America look forward to playing there. Ultimately there may be confusion between the National and the National Cultural Center but change the name of the National? That wouldn't sit well with true Washingtonians—or our savvy taxi drivers. Next year let's find a new word for culture. That one's a self-conscious dog.