

Actual construction costs have been estimated at \$886,000. The Theodore Roosevelt Association wants Congress to appropriate this sum since the prospects for raising it by public subscription are dim. The House went along with this last year, but the Senate held it up until designs acceptable to T.R.'s family could be prepared.

Meanwhile, the National Cultural Center project is not in flourishing financial condition, either. Its total cost has been estimated at \$75 million, also to be raised by public subscription. It was authorized by Congress 2 years ago, with the condition that its funds be pledged and work started by 1963.

So far, the center has raised only \$1.5 million, \$500,000 of which came from the Hattie Strong Foundation. Mrs. Strong's son, L. Corrin Strong, is executive vice chairman of the cultural center.

The center plan has been criticized as too grandiose and costly. If broken down into a number of projects, as separate memorials, it might be more feasible.

Cost of the center's grand salon—big enough for all three of the inaugural balls now being planned in President-elect Kennedy's honor—has been put at \$5 million. The river front terraces, landing and open air amphitheater would cost another \$5 million.

The opera house, concert hall and playhouse—each seating 3,000—would cost up to \$6 million apiece. Two smaller auditoriums would cost \$3 million to \$4 million.

Plazas, corridors, approaches, underground parking garage for 2,000 cars, foundations, restaurants, rehearsal halls, studios, recording facilities, screening rooms and landscaping would cost more than \$30 million.

[From the Washington (D.C.) Post and Times Herald, Dec. 31, 1960]

LOOKING AT ARCHITECTURE—F.D.R. TRIBUTE LIKE BOOK ENDS OUT OF DEEP FREEZE

(By Frederick Gutheim)

The winning design in the Franklin D. Roosevelt competition is not architecture, but literature. It should not be built.

The skyline of reinforced concrete slabs, a vertiable San Gimignano in its sculptural forms, is embellished with quotations from the late President.

However, it is the man who should be memorialized, not his rhetoric. This should be a memorial, not a legal brief.

Looked at in sculptural terms, one's first impression is of a set of book ends—just out of the deep freeze. Later, when the high-shouldered, stylized, abstract forms have been studied more carefully, and especially as they may be seen from the air, there is the suggestion one is looking at a committee.

There is even more the impression of pieces of paper, inscribed to be sure with lapidary words, but offering in esthetic satisfaction hardly more than a crick in the neck.

It will be asserted that as the visitor moves about the proposed memorial he will be thrilled by the dynamic movement of these white planes, coated with marble chips. Much will be made of the transparency of the design, through which the landscape can be seen.

These, however, are negative characteristics. It is not enough to say this plan is simple or meets requirements.

Roosevelt was anything but negative. Roosevelt does not have to stand on the record. He does not have to affirm or reaffirm. His monument should arouse in the hearts of men what Roosevelt at his greatest evoked—humanity, freedom, charity, growth.

The memorial design, like the majority of the entries that received mentions, achieves its effect by exploiting the sources of modern structural principles—in this case reinforced concrete. But it lacks the vigor and solidity of John Johansen's scheme, which it greatly resembles. As a sculptural form it is too bland compared with the vigorous and suggestive project offered by Percival Goodman or the faintly ruinous design entered by Davis, Brody, and Wisniewski.

Viewing the six entries and a couple of dozen others visited by the Roosevelt Memorial Commission, one has sympathy with the difficult problem faced by the jury. Competition has however greatly clarified the complex issues posed by a modern memorial, but the Roosevelt Memorial Commission should regard this as an exploratory exercise on the basis of which to continue its search for an appropriate memorial which it can recommend to Congress and not as the answer to its quest.