

ing and for the contributions made to the full Commission. You have been a wonderful help and inspiration in this.

The Secretary of the Interior, I note, has been a real leader and a real help and has given great inspiration, from the fact he has this feeling himself, to every member of the committee. We should pay him tribute.

I would say also that the leadership of Mr. Gray went far beyond the call of duty from the very beginning, and all of the members of the Commission who could not be there had their representatives there, and I thought we had the benefit of your great experience throughout. I think you made a very good contribution.

Speaking as an amateur historian momentarily, if I may—I have been accused of this and I accept it especially if you underline the word “amateur”—I want to say this is a great day for me and it ought to be for all of those interested in American history because finally this Nation of ours is concerning itself with a program that is designed for the preservation of the thing we call America.

I know of no place in the world where people can learn about freedom and what freedom has done better than they can learn it here in this complex we call our Capitol. So this is a great thing we are identifying with in this program. We can do this in these times without increasing of cost of government in cooperation with what we call free enterprise, which is what we are alining ourselves with in this proposition before us.

We are building on plans that were early made and evolved through and with free enterprise. This is a good thing to note.

Let me call attention to something that was said by a man who addressed a joint session of the Congress, a private citizen who never served in public office, Carl Sandburg, who said, and I paraphrase him, he said, “Whenever a nation forgets its hard beginnings, it is beginning to decay.” He concluded that we had some really rough, tough, hard beginnings.

With this project we are not forgetting. We are beginning to remind our people of the sacrifices that made this Nation, and this is to the good.

Here finally, because of what we are doing, students are going to come and they are going to learn something about the grand design of the place we call our country. They are going to learn to understand its basic philosophy and be better able to build for the future.

I say to the members of the committee that, if we want to do something about the un-Americanism so evident in many places in America today, there is no better way or place to do it than right here in Washington with this kind of a project. You show me an extremist in America and I will show you a person who does not understand American philosophy and the American way of life. So we are doing some great and noble things as far as our own people to understand, and more importantly for the people of the world who can come here to this country and better understand America. They will appreciate it because before they will leave they will see something of themselves because what we build here was built from the experience of other people.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to have a statement later on which will involve some suggestions, but not before I talk to you, Mr. Knott, and they relate to the manner of managing of this headquarters. It is some-