

of graphic arts; that is, drawings, etchings, lithographs, and other prints as well as many items of decorative arts.

The value of the collection is such that I should hesitate to attempt to express it in dollars. This growth in resources derives not only from great benefactions such as those that over the years brought to the gallery the Samuel Kress, the Widener, the Chester Dale, and the Rosenwald collections, but also from other donors and friends who are literally numbered in the hundreds and who are found in all parts of our country.

This amazing achievement has come about as a result of a very happy joint enterprise—really a uniquely American collaboration of private collectors and philanthropists on the one hand and the Federal Government on the other, working in a partnership to create and give life to a great cultural institution.

The Federal Government, for example, has never failed to meet its pledge to provide funds for the proper upkeep of the gallery and it is my firm belief that this has been a major contributing factor in convincing collectors that the National Gallery of Art is a fitting place to house their collections.

It is indeed most fortunate that Mr. Andrew Mellon's interest in the Nation's gallery passed on to his son and daughter, Mr. Paul Mellon and Mrs. Mellon Bruce. I am pleased to report to you that they have by unconditional and unrestricted gifts in the past year put the trustees in funds which the trustees deem sufficient to erect the new building or buildings on the reserved site.

Mr. GRAY. That is so important, Mr. Walker. You do have funds available now to do this?

Mr. WALKER. We do right now have funds in the gallery as the result of a gift.

Mr. GRAY. Congratulations.

Mr. WALKER. The amount of the gift has been announced. It is approximately \$20 million.

Mr. GRAY. It is very unusual.

Mr. WALKER. We have it. We are not asking for 1 penny of appropriated funds for the construction of this building.

Mr. GRAY. I apologize for interrupting you.

Mr. WALKER. Thank you, very much, for interrupting me, so that I could emphasize this point.

Mr. GRAY. I just could not believe what I heard.

Mr. WALKER. When it is finished the addition will be, as is provided in the proposed legislation, an integral part of the National Gallery of Art and subject to the same legislation and provisions as is the present building.

Thus, after completion which we now estimate will occur probably in fiscal year 1973, the new building will be supported in the same way as is the present building. However, it is my personal opinion that this new construction will accomplish a saving of public appropriated funds. Were the Congress to try to provide for the gallery's growth inside the present building, the result would be not only an impairment of the beauty of what I deem to be one of the architectural gems of the city, but also inefficiency and crowding so that more funds would be required than would be needed to provide for the very same functions in a new building.