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APPROVED

SEP 19 1975

*Statement named in Calif.
9/20/75*

ACTION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 18, 1975

Last Day: September 20

*To Archives
9/22/75*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JIM CANNON 
SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 907 - Smithsonian Support Facilities

Attached for your consideration is S. 907, sponsored by Senator Scott of Pennsylvania, which would authorize the Smithsonian Institution to prepare plans for museum support facilities on Federally owned land in the Washington metropolitan area.

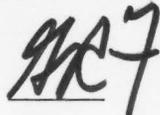
Additional background information is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Lazarus) and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill and the attached signing statement which was prepared by the Smithsonian and cleared by Paul Theis. OMB recommends approval of the enrolled bill but does not believe it warrants a signing statement.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign S. 907 at Tab C.

That you approve the signing statement at Tab B.

Approve  Disapprove _____





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

SEP 15 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 907 - Smithsonian Support Facilities
Sponsor - Sen. Scott (R) Pennsylvania

Last Day for Action

September 20, 1975 - Saturday

Purpose

To authorize the Smithsonian Institution to plan museum support facilities.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Smithsonian Institution

Approval

Discussion

The enrolled bill would authorize the Smithsonian Institution to prepare plans for museum support facilities on Federally owned land in the Washington metropolitan area. These facilities would provide space for such activities as on-site research, exhibit preparation, and the care, curation, conservation, and study of the national science, art and history collections. These essential museum functions can be effectively performed away from the Smithsonian's Mall museum buildings and would permit maximum utilization of museum buildings for public exhibitions.

Although the Smithsonian has maintained rigid standards for accepting the museum donations, the national collection has been increasing at a rate of about one million objects per year. In the past, it has been possible to build new museum buildings for

expanding collections. However, after the new National Air and Space Museum is completed, only one more site will remain on the Mall for the Smithsonian's use. The best long-range solution appears to be support facilities within a reasonable distance from the Mall.

Testifying on a similar House bill, S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian, stated, "I fully anticipate that no funds for this authorization will be requested until the spending moratorium established by the President is lifted." The General Services Administration estimates that the cost for planning the facilities provided for in S. 907 would be \$1,575,000.

James M. Fry
Assistant Director
for Legislative Reference

Enclosures



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

September 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT D. LINDER

FROM: James M. Frey *Jrey*

Subject: Signing statement for enrolled bill S. 907,
Smithsonian museum support facilities

In my memorandum of September 15 on this bill, we neglected to comment on the draft signing statement prepared by the Smithsonian Institution.

not We do not believe a signing statement is warranted or timely in this case. The bill itself is not significant, and it is unlikely that museum support facilities will be provided for in the Budget until the policy against new spending programs is changed.

*Correction Made, per
telephone call from
Jim Frey to Mr. Linder
10:55 A.M. - 9/19/75.*

cmf



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D.C. 20560
U.S.A.

September 12, 1975

Mr. James M. Frey
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Frey:

Thank you for referring to the Smithsonian Institution for comment the enrolled bill S. 907, an act to authorize the Smithsonian Institution to plan museum support facilities.

At its meeting on January 24, 1975 the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution requested that its Congressional members introduce and support legislation which would authorize them to prepare plans for museum support facilities for the care, curation, conservation, deposit, preparation, and study of the national collections of scientific, historic, and artistic objects, specimens, and artifacts; for related documentation of such collections of the Smithsonian Institution; and for the training of museum conservators. S. 907, introduced in the Senate on March 3, 1975 by Mr. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, and H. R. 5328, a companion measure introduced on March 21 by Mr. George H. Mahon of Texas, who is also a Regent, resulted from that request.

The enrolled bill provides the authority sought by the Regents and also stipulates, as the Regents had proposed, that the facilities be located on Federally owned land within the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia, as well as authorizing the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for planning.

The Smithsonian Institution's present facilities and space in the Washington area are heavily concentrated in and around the national Mall, an area explicitly and properly dedicated to the use, education, and enjoyment of the American public. The complex of Smithsonian activities encompassing exhibits, education, collections, conservation, research, and support fully occupies its available space on the Mall and elsewhere. Yet each day the national collections of specimens and artifacts are growing, even with deliberate and selective acquisition policies, and are encroaching on Mall space needed for the expanding public functions of the Institution.

The collections cannot be made properly available for study and exhibition unless they are well documented and conserved-- activities which also require space. Space economies are being pursued, including more compact storage and access systems, programs of loan and transfer of collections, and traveling exhibitions, but the conduct and progress of essential public services require the development of plans for additional facilities to house the equally necessary but less visible service of collections management with its associated functions of exhibits preparation, conservation, care, study, cataloguing, accessible deposition, and publications.

An annex to the national museums in which to perform these activities can be located away from the Mall but should be within the Washington area for convenient access, both to staff and to visiting scholars, and designed for effective integration of its collections and work with programs on the Mall.

Off-Mall support facilities would serve as the point of entry to the Institution for new collections, including their registration and assessment for conservation purposes. Objects would be transferred to the Mall museums when required for exhibition, research, or reference. Objects would move back to the support facilities when released from such needs. The facilities would also incorporate space for on-site research, computer support for documentation, exhibits preparation, document distribution, and maintenance support. In addition, they would help to provide for the future a long range solution of the Institution's space problems. A site appropriate to these needs is now being sought adjacent to the Institution's current holdings used largely by the National Air and Space Museum at Silver Hill, Maryland.

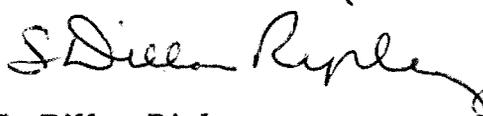
A survey of our needs indicates an immediate requirement for 528,000 net assignable square feet or 776,000 gross square feet of building space. In February 1975 the General Services Administration provided us with an estimate of cost totaling \$37,638,000 to meet this requirement and to plan and construct the first phase of the museum support facilities. Included in the estimate are architectural and engineering fees; site work and utilities; mechanical equipment; paving of roads, walkways, and parking areas; landscaping; and equipment. The estimated cost for planning, for which S. 907 provides authority, is \$1,575,000, including design and review costs.

The estimates are based on a concept of a master plan for the construction of Smithsonian support facilities on approximately 71 acres of Federally owned land adjacent to our existing Maryland holdings. This proposal is included in the General Services Administration master plan concept for the Suitland Federal Center.

Construction of the first phase and longer range development of the support facilities would be undertaken in increments over a period of years as authorizations and appropriations for successive stages are approved, and would provide for an ultimate total of 1,852,000 gross square feet which we estimate as the long term need of the Smithsonian for space at the support facilities during this century.

We respectfully recommend approval by the President of S. 907, and are enclosing a signing statement for his use and issuance if he so desires.

Sincerely yours,



S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

September 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT D. LINDER

FROM: James M. Frey *Frey*

Subject: Signing statement for enrolled bill S. 907,
Smithsonian museum support facilities

In my memorandum of September 15 on this bill, we neglected to comment on the draft signing statement prepared by the Smithsonian Institution.

not We do not believe a signing statement is warranted or timely in this case. The bill itself is not significant, and it is likely that museum support facilities will be provided for in the Budget until the policy against new spending programs is changed.

*Correction made,
per telephone call
from Jim Frey to
Mr. Linder, 10:55 a.m.,*

9/19/75.

Conf

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

SEP 15 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 907 - Smithsonian Support Facilities
Sponsor - Sen. Scott (R) Pennsylvania

Last Day for Action

September 20, 1975 - Saturday

Purpose

To authorize the Smithsonian Institution to plan museum support facilities.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Smithsonian Institution

Approval

Discussion

The enrolled bill would authorize the Smithsonian Institution to prepare plans for museum support facilities on Federally owned land in the Washington metropolitan area. These facilities would provide space for such activities as on-site research, exhibit preparation, and the care, curation, conservation, and study of the national science, art and history collections. These essential museum functions can be effectively performed away from the Smithsonian's Mall museum buildings and would permit maximum utilization of museum buildings for public exhibitions.

Although the Smithsonian has maintained rigid standards for accepting the museum donations, the national collection has been increasing at a rate of about one million objects per year. In the past, it has been possible to build new museum buildings for



To-
J. Casper
9-15-75
5:15 p.m.

expanding collections. However, after the new National Air and Space Museum is completed, only one more site will remain on the Mall for the Smithsonian's use. The best long-range solution appears to be support facilities within a reasonable distance from the Mall.

Testifying on a similar House bill, S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian, stated, "I fully anticipate that no funds for this authorization will be requested until the spending moratorium established by the President is lifted." The General Services Administration estimates that the cost for planning the facilities provided for in S. 907 would be \$1,575,000.

James M. Fry
Assistant Director
for Legislative Reference

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 313

PP

Date: September 15

Time: 545pm

FOR ACTION: Kathleen Ryan
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Paul Heis

cc (for information): Jim Cavanaugh
Jack Marsh

RETURN TO RESEARCH
ROOM 123

JF

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: September 17

Time: noon

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill S. 907 - Smithsonian Support Facilities

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

For the Staff Secretary

RRR

Tracy memo
Ripley letter to James Frey
Smithsonian

I have signed into law today S. 907, an act authorizing the Smithsonian Institution to plan museum support facilities.

The new law, approved by Congress earlier this month without dissent, will enable the Smithsonian to undertake the development of facilities in ~~Prince George's County, Maryland~~ for the most effective care and conservation of the collections it holds in trust for the Nation.

Mrs. Gayton
legislative
Smithsonian
this could
cause
contrary
letter not
national

These collections, which include nearly 75 million items, among them the Kitty Hawk Flyer, George Catlin's remarkable paintings of North American Indians, and 3,000,000 botanical specimens, record our historic, scientific, material and cultural development as a people and as a nation.

The proposed facilities will permit increased public access to the rich and diverse heritage represented in the collections, and will also allow the Institution's Mall museums to be used to the fullest extent possible for the education and enjoyment of the millions of citizens who visit them each year.

On the eve of America's Bicentennial I believe it appropriate to make this commitment to ~~the markers~~ of our past ~~so as to~~ guide us on the path of our third century.

this has to use

to better

X

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Judy Johnston
FROM: Kathleen Ryan *KAR.*
SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 907 - Smithsonian
Support Facilities

I recommend approval.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CAVANAUGH
FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.F.*
SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S.907 = Smithsonian Support
Facilities

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs with the agencies
that the enrolled bill be signed.

Attachments

*Smithsonian has requested
signing ceremony.
M.L.F.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 313

Date: September 15

Time: 545pm

FOR ACTION: Kathleen Ryan
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Thesis on

cc (for information): Jim Cavanaugh
Jack Marsh

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DUE: Date: September 17

Time: noon

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill S. 907 - Smithsonian Support Facilities

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

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K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:313

Date: September 15

Time: 545pm

FOR ACTION: Kathleen Ryan
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus

cc (for information): Jim Cavanaugh
Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

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Time: noon

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Enrolled Bill S. 907 - Smithsonian Support Facilities

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

No objection. -- Ken Lazarus 9/17/75

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If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

J. [unclear]
For [unclear]

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have signed into law today S.907, an act authorizing the Smithsonian Institution to plan museum support facilities.

The new law, approved by Congress earlier this month without dissent, will enable the Smithsonian to undertake the development of facilities for the most effective care and conservation of the collections it holds in trust for the Nation.

These collections, which include nearly 75 million items, among them the Kitty Hawk Flyer, George Catlin's remarkable paintings of North American Indians and 3,000,000 botanical specimens, record our historic, scientific, material and cultural development as a people and as a nation.

The proposed facilities will permit increased public access to the rich and diverse heritage represented in the collections. They will also allow the Institution's Mall museums to be used to the fullest extent possible for the education and enjoyment of the millions of citizens who visit them each year.

On the eve of America's Bicentennial I believe it appropriate to make this commitment to this heritage of our past to better guide us on the path of our third century.

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AUTHORIZING THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TO PLAN MUSEUM SUPPORT FACILITIES

JULY 23 (legislative day, JULY 21), 1975.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. CANNON, from the Committee on Rules and Administration,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 907]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, to which was referred the bill (S. 907) to authorize the Smithsonian Institution to plan museum support facilities, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

S. 907 would enable the Smithsonian Institution to undertake planning of museum support facilities for the conservation, care, curation, deposit, documentation, preparation, and study of the national collections of scientific, historical, and artistic objects and artifacts, and for the training of museum conservators. Such support facilities would be located on federally owned land within the metropolitan area of Washington, District of Columbia.

BACKGROUND

Legislation similar to this bill has been before the Congress for a number of years.

In September 1969, the Subcommittee on the Smithsonian Institution of the Committee on Rules and Administration conducted a joint hearing on S. 209, similar in concept to S. 907, together with the Subcommittee on Library and Memorials of the Committee on House Administration. Detailed testimony was presented on the needs for the legislation.

Concurring that such facilities should be planned by the Smithsonian as necessary to the proper functioning of the Institution in the

national interest, the Senate subcommittee approved S. 209 with an amendment limiting the funding involved to planning purposes, so that a future review by the Congress would be required before construction was authorized. The legislation was reported favorably to the Senate by the Committee on Rules and Administration on July 15, 1970 (S. Rept. 91-1030) and passed by the Senate on July 17, 1970. The Committee on House Administration reported a companion measure in the 91st Congress, but it did not receive a rule. Neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives took action during the 92d Congress. In the 93d Congress, a similar measure, S. 857, was introduced and after being reported favorably by the Committee on Rules and Administration (S. Rept. 93-1051) was passed by the Senate on August 1, 1974. There was no action by the House, however.

FUNDS FOR PLANNING

The committee again emphasizes that as in the case of previous legislation appropriate funds for planning alone are recommended.

The legislation is intended as a first step only toward meeting an increasingly critical need of the Smithsonian—adequate storage and support facilities for the proper care of its growing collections—so that the complex of museums on the Mall can be utilized to the maximum extent possible for the public purposes for which they were intended. The Smithsonian's displays and exhibitions provide enjoyment and edification for more than 17 million people who visit the Mall museums each year, and such attendance is expected to grow in the years ahead.

The overcrowding of the Mall museums with the various support activities described in this bill has produced the growing problem the legislation seeks to resolve, and the need for the new facilities away from the Mall, but sufficiently nearby to permit ready access.

CONSERVATION

An important aspect of the proposed support facilities involves the conservation of objects in a wide variety of subject areas, from the arts to history and science. Only in recent times, and with the Smithsonian taking leadership in this area, have conservation needs been given the emphasis they deserve. The committee recognizes that throughout our Nation's more than 5,000 museums there is an urgent need for well-trained conservators. The National Museum Act extended the Smithsonian's relatively modest program of assistance to our country's museums and, in particular, emphasized the need for the development of a national institute for museum conservation. S. 907 would provide a tangible means for moving toward this goal. Within the support facility would be special facilities for conservation of our national collections, and for training, in an initial five to ten year period, up to 50 conservators to help meet national needs.

The committee views such training as a most important contribution which the Smithsonian can and should make to the well-being of all museums, so that the heritage implicit in their collections—instead of deteriorating as it is today—may be preserved and enhanced for future generations.

FUNDING

The General Services Administration has estimated that it would cost \$37,638,000 at prices current on February 28, 1975, to meet the immediate requirements for 528,000 net assignable or 776,000 gross square feet of building space. The total of estimated planning, design, and review costs included in that figure, and for which S. 907 provides authority, is approximately \$1,575,000.

In view of inflationary pressures, the uncertainties of appropriations, and the prospect of more refined estimates as planning proceeds, an open-ended authorization was elected in order to permit some flexibility in dealing with these variables. The application of planning funds will be reviewed by the committee at the time that construction authorization for the first phase of development is considered.

PROPOSED SITE

The proposed site for the facilities is adjacent to 21 acres of land the Smithsonian now owns and utilizes for activities associated primarily with its National Air and Space Museum. The site, which is approximately 7 miles from the Mall, is included in the General Services Administration's master plan concept for the development of the Suitland Federal Center in Maryland. The master plan concept contemplates that a total of approximately 71 acres of various parcels adjoining the existing facility will be transferred or reserve for the development of the Smithsonian's long-range plans. This includes a buffer zone of wooded areas adjoining the Suitland Parkway. The National Capital Planning Commission, along with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Prince George's County Planning Board, have endorsed the overall plan.

CLEARANCES AND APPROVALS

A letter further clarifying the purpose of S. 907, addressed to Hon. Howard W. Cannon, Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration, by S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, is as follows:

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
Washington, D.C., April 25, 1975.

HON. HOWARD W. CANNON,
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration, U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to take this opportunity to comment on S. 907, a bill to authorize the Smithsonian Institution to plan museum support facilities.

At its meeting on January 24, 1975 the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution requested that its congressional members introduce and support legislation which would authorize them to prepare plans for museum support facilities for the care, curation, conservation, deposit, preparation, and study of the national collections of scientific, historic, and artistic objects, specimens, and artifacts; for related documentation of such collections of the Smithsonian Institution; and for the training of museum conservators. S. 907, introduced

on March 3, 1975, by Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, results from that request.

In addition to the foregoing, the proposal also stipulates that the facilities should be located on federally owned land within the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia; authorizes other agencies to transfer land for this purpose to the Smithsonian without reimbursement; and authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for planning.

The Smithsonian Institution's present facilities and space in the Washington area are heavily concentrated in and around the national Mall, an area explicitly and properly dedicated to the use, education, and enjoyment of the American public. The complex of Smithsonian activities encompassing exhibits, education, collections, conservation, research, and support fully occupies its available space on the Mall and elsewhere. Yet each day the national collections of specimens and artifacts are growing, even with deliberate and selective acquisition policies, and are encroaching on Mall space needed for the expanding public functions of the Institution.

The collections cannot be made properly available for study and exhibition unless they are well documented and conserved—activities which also require space. Space economies are being pursued, including more compact storage and access systems, programs of loan and transfer of collections, and traveling exhibitions, but the conduct and progress of essential public services require the development of plans for additional facilities to house the equally necessary but less visible service of collections management with its associated functions of exhibits preparation, conservation, care, study, cataloging, accessible deposition, and publications.

An annex to the national museums in which to perform these activities can be located away from the Mall but should be within the Washington area for convenient access, both to staff and to visiting scholars, and designed for effective integration of its collections and work with programs on the Mall.

The facility would serve as the point of entry to the Institution for new collections, including their registration and assessment for conservation purposes. Objects would be transferred to the Mall museums when required for exhibition, research, or reference. Objects would move back to the support facility when released from such needs. The facility would also incorporate space for on-site research, computer support for documentation, exhibits preparation, document distribution, and maintenance support. The facility would help to provide for the future a long range solution of the Institution's space problems. A building site appropriate to these needs is now being sought adjacent to the Institution's current holdings used largely by the National Air and Space Museum at Silver Hill, Md.

Based on a survey of our immediate needs it is estimated that we would require 528,000 net assignable square feet or 776,000 square feet gross of building space, at the very tentative estimate of cost totaling \$37,638,000 at current prices. Included in the total for construction would be architectural and engineering fees, site work and utilities, mechanical equipment, paving of roads, walkways and parking areas, landscaping and equipment.

Authorization for planning for the initial stage only of this project is now sought. The General Services Administration estimate for the total design and review cost is \$1,575,000.

This estimate is based on a concept of a master plan for the construction of Smithsonian support facilities on approximately 71 acres of federally owned land adjacent to the Smithsonian's existing Maryland holdings. This proposal is included in the General Services Administration master plan concept for the Suitland Federal Center. The long range development of the support facility would be constructed in increments over a period of years as authorization and appropriations for successive stages are approved, and would provide for an ultimate total of 1,852,000 square feet gross, estimated to be the projected long term need of the Smithsonian for space at the support facility during this century.

On August 1, 1974, the Senate passed legislation nearly identical to the pending proposal, and approved a similar measure in 1970. No action was taken on either proposal in the House of Representatives.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report to the Congress from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

S. DILLON RIPLEY,
Secretary.

○

Ninety-fourth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the fourteenth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five*

An Act

To authorize the Smithsonian Institution to plan museum support facilities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution are authorized to prepare plans for museum support facilities to be used for (1) the care, curation, conservation, deposit, preparation, and study of the national collections of scientific, historic, and artistic objects, specimens, and artifacts; (2) the related documentation of such collections of the Smithsonian Institution; and (3) the training of museum conservators.

SEC. 2. The museum support facilities referred to in section 1 shall be located on federally owned land within the metropolitan area of Washington, District of Columbia. Any Federal agency is authorized to transfer land under its jurisdiction to the Smithsonian Institution for such purposes without reimbursement.

SEC. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Smithsonian Institution such sums as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(San Francisco, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have signed into law today S. 907, an act authorizing the Smithsonian Institution to plan museum support facilities.

The new law, approved by Congress earlier this month without dissent, will enable the Smithsonian to undertake the development of facilities for the most effective care and conservation of the collections it holds in trust for the Nation.

These collections, which include nearly 75 million items, among them the Kitty Hawk Flyer, George Catlin's remarkable paintings of North American Indians and 3,000,000 botanical specimens, record our historic, scientific, material and cultural development as a people and as a nation.

The proposed facilities will permit increased public access to the rich and diverse heritage represented in the collections. They will also allow the Institution's Mall museums to be used to the fullest extent possible for the education and enjoyment of the millions of citizens who visit them each year.

On the eve of America's Bicentennial I believe it is appropriate to make this commitment to this heritage of our past to better guide us on the path of our third century.

#

September 9, 1975

Dear Mr. Director:

The following bill was received at the White House on September 9th:

S. 907 ✓

Please let the President have reports and recommendations as to the approval of this bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Linder
Chief Executive Clerk

The Honorable James T. Lynn
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C.