

1040

9314
In 8/13
Se 8

SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

GOVERNMENT

DOCUMENTS

Storage

18 1975

THE LIBRARY
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 3188

A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MAY 31, 1974



Printed for the use of the
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1974

36-553 O

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION



COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

HENRY M. JACKSON, Washington, *Chairman*

ALAN BIBLE, Nevada

FRANK CHURCH, Idaho

LEE METCALF, Montana

J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, JR., Louisiana

JAMES ABOUREZK, South Dakota

FLOYD K. HASKELL, Colorado

GAYLORD NELSON, Wisconsin

HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, Ohio

PAUL J. FANNIN, Arizona

CLIFFORD P. HANSEN, Wyoming

MARK O. HATFIELD, Oregon

JAMES L. BUCKLEY, New York

JAMES A. MCCLURE, Idaho

DEWEY F. BARTLETT, Oklahoma

JERRY T. VERKLER, *Staff Director*

WILLIAM J. VAN NESS, *Chief Counsel*

HARRISON LOESCH, *Minority Counsel*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

ALAN BIBLE, Nevada, *Chairman*

HENRY M. JACKSON, Washington

FRANK CHURCH, Idaho

J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, JR., Louisiana

GAYLORD NELSON, Wisconsin

HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, Ohio

CLIFFORD P. HANSEN, Wyoming

MARK O. HATFIELD, Oregon

JAMES A. MCCLURE, Idaho

JAMES P. BEIRNE, *Special Counsel*

J. CRAIG SWEENEY, *Research Assistant*

CONTENTS

S. 3188-----	Page 2
Department of the Interior report-----	4

STATEMENTS

Bible, Hon. Alan, a U.S. Senator from the State of Nevada-----	1
Chittick, Elizabeth L., national chairman, National Woman's Party-----	15, 18
Del Papa, Frankie Sue-----	73
Jackson, Hon. Henry M., a U.S. Senator from the State of Washington-----	7
Johnston, Rita Z., U.S. Delegate to the Inter-American Commission of Women-----	66
Meehan, Susan, representing the National Legislative Office of the National Organization for Women-----	74
Metzenbaum, Hon. Howard M., a U.S. Senator from the State of Ohio-----	8
Shriver, Lucille H., executive director, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc-----	63
Tusa, Dr. Jacqueline Balk, spokeswoman for the National Women's Political Caucus-----	44, 46
Wheeler, Douglas P., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Department of the Interior; accompanied by Dr. Ernest Connally, Associate Director of Professional Services, National Park Service; and Jack Fish, Director, National Capital Parks Region-----	10

COMMUNICATIONS

Camara, Dorothy, president, National Organization for Women, letter to Senator Bible, May 6, 1974-----	31
Chittick, Elizabeth L., national chairman, National Woman's Party: Letters received:	
Arvonne S. Fraser, president, Women's Equity Action League, May 29, 1974-----	26
Margaret B. Klapthor, curator, Division of Political History, May 8, 1974-----	32
Peter G. Powers, president, Capitol Hill Restoration Society, May 6, 1974-----	34
Joseph A. Beirne, president, Communications Workers of America, May 9, 1974-----	35
Robert S. Strauss, chairman, Democratic National Committee, May 8, 1974-----	36
Hon. Clare Boothe Luce, Honolulu, Hawaii, May 25, 1974-----	39
George Bush, chairman, Republican National Committee, May 30, 1974-----	43
Jackson, Hon. Henry M., a U.S. Senator from the State of Washington: Letters received:	
Mary T. Stewart, president, the Zonta Club-----	27
John R. Simonson, president, Interstate Association of Commis- sions, on the Status of Women, May 17, 1974-----	28
John Huber, president, Sociologists for Women in Society, May 20, 1974-----	29
Daisy B. Fields, executive director, National PEW, May 15, 1974--	30
Jane Aufenkamp, associate director, Federation of Organizations for Professional Women, May 7, 1973-----	37
Jean L. McCarrey, national president, Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. of the United States, May 22, 1974-----	38
Ethel C. Phillips, president, National Council of Women of the United States, Inc., May 9, 1974-----	40, 41

IV

APPENDIX

Biddle, James, president, National Trust for Historic Preservation, letter to Senator Jackson, June 19, 1974-----	Page 85
Capitol Hill Restoration Society, statement-----	80
Crater, Flora, acting state coordinator, Virginia Women's Political Caucus, Falls Church, Va., statement-----	89
Gabrielson, Rosamond, president, American Nurses' Association, Inc., Kansas City, Mo., May 30, 1974-----	88
Peratis, Kathleen, Women's Rights Project, American Civil Liberties Union, New York, N.Y., letter to Senator Jackson, May 14, 1974-----	87
Santos, Carol M. C., president-elect, Capitol Hill Restoration Society, statement-----	79
Wolfe, Dr. Deborah P., on behalf of the American Association of University Women, statement-----	84

SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1974

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION,
OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 2 p.m. pursuant to notice in room 3110 Dirksen Office Building, Hon. Alan Bible, presiding.

Present: Senators Jackson, Bible, and Metzenbaum.

Also present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director; James P. Beirne, special counsel; and Maureen Finnerty, administrative assistant for the minority.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ALAN BIBLE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator BIBLE. We're now back to the serious problem of hearing a very, very important bill, a bill which means much to many people.

I would like to make S. 3188 part of the record, a bill introduced by Senator Jackson on March 19, 1974, to establish the Sewall-Belmont house as a national historic site for historic purposes, also, the official report of the Department of the Interior, signed by John W. Kyl, dated May 30, 1974.

[The material referred to follows:]

(1)

93^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3188

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 1974

Mr. JACKSON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That in order to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of
4 the people of the United States as a national historic site,
5 the Sewall-Belmont House within the District of Columbia,
6 the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into a
7 cooperative agreement to assist in the preservation and inter-
8 pretation of such house.

9 SEC. 2. The property subject to cooperative agreement
10 pursuant to section 1 of this Act is hereby designated as the
11 Sewall-Belmont National Historic Site.

1 SEC. 3. The cooperative agreement shall contain, but
2 shall not be limited to, provisions that the Secretary, through
3 the National Park Service, shall have right of access at all
4 reasonable times to all public portions of the property
5 covered by such agreement for the purpose of conducting
6 visitors through such property and interpreting it to the pub-
7 lic, that no changes or alterations shall be made in such
8 property except by mutual agreement between the Secre-
9 tary and the other parties to such agreement. The agreement
10 may contain specific provisions which outline in detail the
11 extent of the participation by the Secretary in the restora-
12 tion, preservation, and maintenance of the historic site.

13 SEC. 4. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated
14 such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of
15 this Act.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAY 30 1974

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your Committee has requested the views of this Department on S. 3188, a bill "To establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site, and for other purposes."

We recommend the enactment of this bill, if it is revised to incorporate an amendment in the nature of a substitute for all after the enacting clause.

S. 3188 would designate the Sewall-Belmont House in Washington, D.C. as a national historic site and authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Women's Party in order to assist in the restoration and maintenance of the property and to interpret the site for visitors.

The Sewall-Belmont House is located at 114 Constitution Avenue, N.E., in Washington, D.C. It has served since 1929 as the headquarters of the National Women's Party, founded by Alice Paul. Ms. Paul was a leading advocate and activist in the women's rights movement whose enthusiasm and efforts were instrumental in securing passage of the constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. In addition to the significance of the house to the women's rights movement, it has historic significance as the residence of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Jefferson and Madison, and is believed to be the site of the only active resistance to the British Army in 1814 after the Battle of Bladensburg in their March on Washington. The property dates back to an original land grant in 1632 to Cecilius Calvert, second Lord Baltimore.

The Sewall-Belmont House was considered by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments at its meeting in Washington this April. At that time the Board recognized it as nationally significant in illustrating the history of the United States, and recommended that it be declared eligible for designation as a national historic landmark. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.



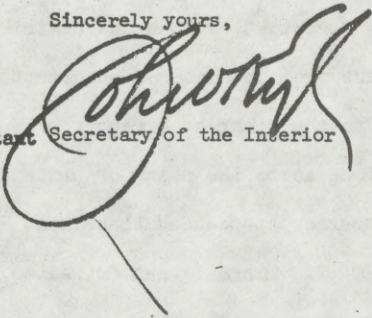
76

Let's Clean Up America For Our 200th Birthday

The attached substitute bill would authorize and direct the Secretary to undertake a study to determine the most feasible and suitable means of preserving and interpreting the historic resources of the Sewall-Belmont House. While this site is recognized as being of national significance, we believe that it would be premature to designate it as a historic site and enter into a cooperative agreement for its administration before a suitability and feasibility study has been completed regarding the costs of restoration and the appropriate means to interpret the resource for the benefit of public. Such a study would enable us to explore the various alternatives for such interpretation and preservation including both use of Historic Preservation Act (80 Stat. 915) funds and the approach taken by S. 3188, as well as other appropriate means. Accordingly, we recommend the enactment of the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute bill in lieu of S. 3188.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,


Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Chairman, Committee on
Interior and Insular Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Enclosure

A B I L L

To provide for a study of the most feasible and suitable means of preserving and interpreting the Sewall-Belmont House within the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to undertake a study of the most feasible and suitable means of preserving and interpreting for the benefit of the public the historic resources of the Sewall-Belmont House being located at 144 Constitution Avenue, Northeast, within the District of Columbia. Not later than two years from the date of enactment of this Act the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report of such study, including his recommendations as to the means of protecting, interpreting and maintaining the resources of the Sewall-Belmont House.

SEC. 2. There is authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$50,000 for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Senator BIBLE. This is the time duly noticed for the open hearing on this bill. The legislation is similar in form to that passed previously by this Congress by the Senate on the Boston National Historical Park.

As a matter of fact, I think that bill was either in a hearing stage or in the markup stage on the House side just yesterday.

Specifically we provided for cooperative agreements, in this particular bill, the Boston National Historic Park, in order to preserve and maintain sites of national historic value for the Nation and to interpret these sites for visitors while not unnecessarily displacing the owners.

One example, Mr. Chairman, was the Paul Revere House, which was built into the Boston National Historical Park, another was Old North Church, and another was Faneuil Hall. We consequently have a precedent for doing this type of thing that's being asked here today.

The house is owned by the National Woman's Party, and I certainly share your sentiments that the continued ownership of this site by the National Woman's Party will make this a living monument to the great contributions which women have made to the development of this Nation.

I said, before you came in that I learned a long time ago, that the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.

And, with that, I shall now refer to you for whatever statements you care to make.

STATEMENT OF HON. HENRY M. JACKSON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Senator JACKSON. Mr. Chairman, I shall just make a brief statement.

Within the next 2 years, two events of national significance will occur. This Nation will celebrate its 200 anniversary and the 27th amendment to the Constitution will be ratified.

The conjunction of these two events, the bicentennial and the equal rights amendment, provides a fitting backdrop for the passage of this legislation.

Although this legislation on its face appears to do no more than designate the Sewall-Beimont House as a national historic site and authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a cooperative agreement in order to restore and maintain portions of the property and to interpret the site for visitors, I must say that, indeed, much more is involved.

The designation and interpretation of this site will be a lasting tribute to the social and humanitarian movements in which women have for so long played an integral part.

The property itself dates back, as we know, to a 1632 land grant to Mr. Cicelius Calvert, second Lord Baltimore, which was the residence of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Jefferson and Madison, and is believed to be the site of the only active resistance to the British Army in 1814 after the Battle of Bladensburg.

The house has served since 1929 as the headquarters of the National Woman's Party.

This site should be no empty shrine. The deep intertwining of the history of the house and the efforts of the women in the awakening of a social consciousness for human rights should make this site a living memorial to those elements of our Nation in which we justifiably take pride.

As stated in my introductory remarks on the floor of the Senate:

The Sewall-Belmont House combines the external and internal growth of this Nation—from the earliest land grants to the full achievement of equal rights for men and women.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like, in conclusion to take this opportunity to express to you my deep appreciation for the many years that you have given as chairman of the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee time and endless effort in behalf of these important conservation programs, all the way from our largest national parks to these unique historical sites, and no one has presided over more legislation of such significance that has been enacted into law in the Congress, no other Senator has served longer or in a more distinguished way than my good friend from Nevada, and, I want him to know how much I appreciate it.

Senator BIBLE. I appreciate that and I thank you very much. I do appreciate the sentiment. At this time I would like to convey to you my best wishes for a very happy birthday, Senator Jackson.

Senator Metzenbaum.

STATEMENT OF HON. HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF OHIO

Senator METZENBAUM. Mr. Chairman, I join the chairman of the full committee in recognition of your services and years of leadership of this committee.

When this legislation came to my attention, I knew something of the social impact of the National Woman's Party had had in recent years, but it seemed to me that if there were to be, or this building were to be a national shrine, that I would like to know a little bit more about its background.

I found that I had members of my staff who were particularly interested in historical aspects of the house, the home, as well as the present day events that have taken place, going back to 1929.

Through their efforts, not my own, they did some historical research in connection with this property, and with your permission, I would like to read the statement into the record, because I think it does indicate the true significance of the Sewall-Belmont home. The association of the site of this home is truly associated with the struggle of human rights of going back over a period of many years, almost to the founding of our country.

It began with the management of this land by an Englishwoman named Margaret Brent, who settled here in 1638. She was the first woman in America to ask for the rights for women comparable to those of men. She had studied law, was a property owner and an

executor of the Calvert estate. She tried to assert her entitlement to a voice in the general assembly of the colony.

It goes without saying that the assembly rejected her claim.

Three hundred and more years have had to pass for her simple claim, and those of courageous people who have passed through this house over the centuries, to come of age in our society.

Appositely, this house which has been so closely associated with the struggle of women for equality, has sheltered many others who struggled in its rooms against social bonds. Slaves lived and worked in what was known as the slave quarters, and is now the annex, until their long travail to overcome, won its first victory.

American patriots in 1814 gave the only resistance to the march of the British on Washington from this home. Part of it was burned with the Capitol and the White House.

Roman Catholics held secret masses from 1774 to 1776 in the loft over the kitchen because Catholic services were banned.

The struggle for an equal rights amendment to the Constitution has been carried on here since the National Woman's Party bought the house in 1929. Great women of history and the great leaders of the Woman's Party and the suffrage movement who were imprisoned in the District of Columbia jail and the workhouse, are remembered here in portraits and sculptures and personal artifacts which have been preserved. There are furnishings from the early Capitol, from Daniel Webster's home, from Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and from the early colonies crafted by slaves in rosewood.

A sculpture of a girl on horseback represents Sybil Ludington, who at the age of 16, in 1777, rode in the night to alert the volunteer militia of Danbury, Conn., to the approach of British forces, where every American schoolchild knows of Paul Revere; yet, I only learned of Sybil Ludington myself from her statue in the Sewall-Belmont House.

A unique and irreplaceable library, the only Woman's Library, other than Harvard's Schlesinger Library, is here. Scholars and institutions have drawn for many years upon its invaluable documents on the suffrage struggle. Historical works, such as a Woman's Bible and an autographed edition of "Living My Life", Emma Goldman's autobiography, are kept here.

Alice Paul, the founder of the Woman's Party, lived in the house for many years, following upon the occupancy of many distinguished Americans: Albert Gallatin, Jefferson's Secretary of the Treasury, who negotiated the Louisiana Purchase in the house; the Sewall family for 123 years; John Strode Barbour, Senator from Virginia; Porter H. Dale, Senator from Vermont.

In this house, much of the history of the woman's movement was made, fragile gains cementing one another, somewhat as the brick walls of the kitchen were laid with mortar made from oyster shells.

So, the Woman's Party began with suffragists, fighting for the elemental vote, went on to defeat legislation which would have made it illegal for married women to work, and gave itself for half a century, often alone, to the effort to write into the Constitution the equality of every person before the State and the law.

We have now almost reached the Nation's bicentennial anniversary, and may achieve in the same year the ratification of a constitutional amendment affirming the equality of persons.

Two hundred years a nation. 300 years since Margaret Brent's petition to the assembly, we will not find a better time or place to honor her and all her descendants.

They merit our recognition, and all women, particularly those of future generations, will take pride and inspiration from the cherishment of the Sewall-Belmont National Historic Site.

I am honored to join Senator Jackson in sponsoring the legislation to preserve and celebrate this heritage.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Senator.

That statement was beautifully written and taught me a lot of things. I thought Paul Revere was the only one running up and down with a horse. I'm sure happy to hear there was a woman doing that way back in those days.

Senator METZENBAUM. I'd like to thank publicly, Gerry Gereau and Ruth Gonz for having put together the real material and research, with reference to Sewall-Belmont.

Senator JACKSON. I would join the chairman in commending you for the historical document. It's something that I think will be of invaluable assistance in the hearings in connection with this measure when it's taken up on the floor of the Senate.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Senator Metzenbaum.

Our first witness is Douglas P. Wheeler, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Department of the Interior.

If you would please introduce those with you that you'd like at the witness table.

Mr. WHEELER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to have with me Dr. Ernest Connally, who is Associate Director of Professional Services of the National Park Service, and Jack Fish, who is the Director of the National Capital Parks Region of the National Park Service.

Senator BIBLE. I know him very well.

Mr. WHEELER. I, too, would like to associate the Department of the Interior with your good wishes on the occasion of Senator Jackson's birthday, and, too, with his remarks to you, Mr. Chairman, about your accomplishments as chairman of this subcommittee.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF DOUGLAS P. WHEELER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR; ACCOMPANIED BY DR. ERNEST CONNALLY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE; AND JACK FISH, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS REGION

Mr. WHEELER. I am Douglas P. Wheeler, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Department of the Interior. I appreciate the opportunity of appearing before you to testify concerning S. 3188. The bill, as has already been stated, would designate the resi-

dence known as the Sewall-Belmont House as a national historic site, and authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Woman's Party for preserving and interpreting the house.

Mr. Chairman, we very definitely appreciate the significance of the women's rights movement in this country, and believe a congressional expression of interest in this symbolic house is entirely appropriate. As you are no doubt aware, the National Park Service already has authority to enter into cooperative agreements under the Historic Sites Act of 1935. Although such authority does exist, we have not had the opportunity to collect sufficient data for determining the suitability and feasibility of direct National Park Service participation in the preservation and interpretation of the Sewall-Belmont House.

Accordingly, we recommend an amendment to S. 3188 in the form of a substitute bill which would provide for such a study. The substitute bill would require a report to the Congress within 2 years, and would authorize a sum of \$50,000 for conducting the study.

The Sewall-Belmont House is located at 114 Constitution Avenue NE. in Washington, D.C. The house has served since 1929 as the headquarters of the National Woman's Party, founded by Alice Paul in 1914. Ms. Paul was a leading advocate and activist in the women's rights movement whose enthusiasm and efforts were instrumental in securing passage in 1919 of the constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. After the amendment was passed by the Congress, Alice Paul and the Woman's Party launched local ratification campaigns, and the 19th amendment became law just prior to the election of 1920. Following that accomplishment, the party directed its efforts toward the goal of achieving yet another constitutional amendment to insure complete equality for women. The Woman's Party has continued since 1920 to work for that goal.

In addition to the significance of the house to the women's rights movement, it has historic significance as the residence of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Jefferson and Madison, and is believed to be the site of the only active resistance to the British Army in 1814, after the Battle of Bladensburg, in their march on Washington.

The property is part of land granted to the second Lord Baltimore by King Charles. The tract was divided several times, and much of the land was ceded to the United States as a site for the new Capitol.

In 1799, the site of the present house was bought by Robert Sewall. Original elements of the existing structure were built in 1800, and remained in Sewall family ownership until sold to Senator Porter H. Dale of Vermont in 1922.

In 1929, the property was acquired by the National Woman's Party, which named it the "Alva Belmont House" in honor of the woman who had contributed toward the purchase of the party's previous headquarters.

Mr. Chairman, the historic importance of this house is beyond question. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. Only last month, the advisory board on National Parks, His-

toric Sites, Buildings and Monuments declared it to be "nationally significant in illustrating the history of the United States".

The board recommended that the house be declared eligible for designation as a national historic landmark under the theme of "Social and Humanitarian Movements".

Enactment of S. 3188 would be premature at this time in light of the fact that little study, if any, has been made of ways by which the Federal Government could appropriately contribute to the protection and preservation of this building. Notwithstanding the authority for cooperative agreements provided by the Historic Sites Act of 1935, and the availability of financial assistance under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, S. 3188 would designate property which is privately owned as a unit of the national park system, and would authorize its restoration at public expense. There is no estimate of the cost involved in doing this.

We respectfully suggest that the Secretary be authorized to evaluate this prospective addition and that the Park Service be permitted to examine other means by which to attain the objectives of this legislation.

Enactment of the substitute bill which we have proposed would rightfully recognize the importance of the Sewall-Belmont House while allowing the National Park Service an opportunity to investigate the merits of alternative solutions.

Senator BIBLE. I appreciate your statement. My questions will be rather short, and I hope pointed.

I do want those who are following you to comment upon what you're saying. It seems to me that you're saying that you don't question the historic importance of the house, you do question the cost involved and you think the Federal Government, and the Department of Interior needs time to study it.

I've been handling these department proposals for, I guess, 18 years now, and I've never found bureaucracy that always needs more time to study, and is more adept at asking for that type of study, than the Interior Department.

There's nothing personal in this, it's just something you learn over the years, but it occurs to me that 2 years is an undue length of time, I handled the appropriation bills and I'm told about all the additional people you need on the secretarial level, and the Park Service level, and the Assistant Secretary level to take care of your problems.

It seems to me, realistic in this year in which we're facing some uncertain problems, that June, July and August would be ample time in which you could complete your study.

It would be my present thinking, subject to what the other members of the committee might feel, if we were to mandate a study and report back by August 30, that would give us ample time to act on this legislation. It might happen, I don't know whether it will or not, but if impeachment is ordered by the House, we'll be sitting as trial jurors for the balance of the year.

I think it's the chairman's intention to move legislation forward very quickly so that we're not caught in a bind in case there is an impeachment.

I should think you might come up with the estimated cost of rehabilitation and other restoration, whatever is required, in a far shorter time than that, Mr. Secretary, and I would invite your comments.

Mr. WHEELER. Yes, sir.

Let me respond to two of the points that you have just made. The first being, obviously, that we have a proclivity to study, but in my much more limited experience with the Department, than yours, I have not been aware of any new unit of the park system established without benefit of a feasibility-suitability study.

Senator BIBLE. I'm not questioning that. I'm just saying you can do it in 90 days.

Mr. WHEELER. The second point, with respect to the length of the study, is this, that the estimate of work actually entailed in making the study, is obviously high. Two years would not be required to conduct the study.

We have recommended a 2-year period because we have not had the opportunity to budget for that study.

Senator BIBLE. Let me clear up that point.

I'm on the Appropriations Committee. We haven't marked up our regular appropriations bill, and you can rest assured that I'll find some way to add \$50,000 and earmark it so that you can study this.

So, that takes care of that.

Mr. WHEELER. We'd be most appreciative of your assistance in that matter, Mr. Chairman, as we always are.

Senator BIBLE. Those really are the only questions I have. I think you can speed this up. I see no need of slowing it down. We ran into the same types of problems in Faneuil Hall in Boston. It had a lot more problems than this project does. It had a subway running under it, and that was one of the great historical halls of the Revolution.

They had a subway running under it and even while we were having the hearings, the floor was shaking, so that was a little disconcerting.

But, we survived and I'm sure the study there was accelerated because we insisted it be accelerated.

I think we can report this bill very quickly, which would be my recommendation. I have a whole bevy of pretty ladies out in front of me, and I was just going to suggest to them that they cut their testimony short because I've learned, from Senator Jackson a long time ago, that if you appear to have won your case when you're before the judge, you don't want to talk too long. I was just going to say that in the way of a friendly suggestion. I used to tell my wife that, and she never paid a bit of attention to me.

I have no further questions. Have you, Senator Jackson?

Senator JACKSON. Mr. Chairman, I concur 100 percent with your comments and your statement.

I have nothing to add, I think you've hit it right on the head and I think we ought to move on this.

You've got all your park experts right here in this city that can walk up from the Department to the building and go over and get

this resolved. I'm serious, this is a matter of national interest and concern.

It isn't just a site in another area of the country. It is a national site in which the whole Nation has a tremendous interest in. I think in the spirit of the chairman's comments, I hope that there will be expeditious action and he is chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee and handles all the funds and I don't think we need say any more about that.

Senator BIBLE. The only thing I'd like to add, and I should mention it, that we are all planning for the Bicentennial and this house should be prepared and ready for that 200th anniversary.

Senator Metzenbaum.

Senator METZENBAUM. I have no comments except to point out that I think that the chairman is very generous with \$50,000 to study this program but I'm not going to get upset about that detail.

I certainly think you could expedite the matter with no difficulty with \$50,000.

Senator BIBLE. Mr. Secretary.

Mr. WHEELER. I would respond by making one further point to the members of the committee.

Our concern is not just the time required to make this study. By enacting this legislation, we establish a very unique situation, a first in all of the 300-and-some-odd units of the national park system, and that is that we are providing, in effect, direct public assistance to the private owners of a building, which is not devoted exclusively to public use.

This will be the case of first impression. It is something that does give us cause for concern and something that I think is worthy of our further consideration.

It is for that reason that we had hoped that we would be able, also, to offer alternative suggestions.

Senator BIBLE. You're not going to be foreclosed on that. Those alternative suggestions can be furnished within the 90-day period of time.

Mr. WHEELER. Yes, sir.

Senator BIBLE. There may be other suggestions, and I don't think we're all omnipotent in our wisdom, in fact I know we aren't; and there may be other alternative suggestions that can be made. That's what we're asking you to do. We're asking you to crank up that timetable a little. We'll furnish you the sinews of war, or whatever you want to call them. I think you call them dollars, in the Nation's Capitol.

Mr. WHEELER. Yes.

Senator METZENBAUM. Mr. Chairman, I'm going to excuse myself only because I have a plane to catch. It isn't from a lack of interest.

Senator BIBLE. You made a beautiful statement and I'm glad you could join us this long.

Mr. WHEELER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator Jackson.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Mrs. Elizabeth L. Chittick, chairman of the National Woman's Party.

Mrs. Chittick, do we have your full statement?

Mrs. CHITTICK. I will not make a full statement. I would like to have my testimony submitted in the record.

Senator BIBLE. It will be incorporated, in full, in the record. Why don't you just highlight it?

**STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH L. CHITTICK, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN,
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY**

Mrs. CHITTICK. Yes. I would like to. Also, I have letters of support to be put into record, as follows: letters of support from the Women's Equity Action League, the Interstate Association of Commissions on the Status of Women; Sociologists for Women in Society; Federally Employed Women; District of Columbia Chapter of National Organizations for Women; Margaret Klaphor, curator of the Smithsonian Institution; Information Task Force Source, Rochester; Capitol Hill Restoration Society; Communications Workers of America; the Democratic National Committee; Republican National Committee; the Federation of Organizations for Professional Women; the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club; The Hon. Clair Booth Luce, Honolulu, Hawaii; Inter-American Commission of Women, O.A.S.; The National Council of Women of the United States, an organization of 23 million women.

Senator BIBLE. That will all be incorporated into the record as will be your full statement.

I don't think you need to develop all the history.

Mrs. CHITTICK. I don't intend to, sir. All of that has been said, but I would like to relate to the history of the National Woman's Party.

Senator BIBLE. As I tried to indicate to you, if the judge is for you, you don't want to keep talking because you might say something that he can turn against. I've had that happen.

Senator JACKSON. I'm just going to add this. We're going to have a markup session on Monday morning and if we don't complete it, there won't be any action on this bill for, probably, a little while, and Monday will be the day, possibly.

Senator BIBLE. We hope to get that on Monday. I'm going to try and do that, but I will put your full statement in the record, and those ladies in back of you know that you're for them and, apparently, we're for you. I do wish you'd get to the heart of this matter.

What about the costs of renovating and remodeling? Is this home about ready to fall down, is it going to cost millions and millions of dollars to prop up at Federal expense?

It seems to me, that's the question with which we are going to be faced. That's the charge that the administration makes and I think they're entitled to have that study made.

What's your opinion? You live there, do you not?

Mrs. CHITTICK. I do.

I'm not an authority on what the expense might be, but I have had people tell me they estimate it to be around \$200,000.

Senator BIBLE. That's certainly reasonable, but even if it's a lot more than that—

Mrs. CHITTICK. It might be \$250,000. I don't know.

Senator BIBLE. I'm not worried about those figures, the way we spend money, now, but what are you going to do with it as far as visitors are concerned, because if you have Federal dollars there, are you just going to limit it to people that are members of the National Woman's Party. It's going to be open to everybody?

Mrs. CHITTICK. It's already open for tours.

Senator BIBLE. Do you charge admission?

Mrs. CHITTICK. No, indeed.

Senator BIBLE. Will you charge admission if you have Federal help?

Mrs. CHITTICK. Well, the idea, which has not been worked out, which could be changed or amplified, would be that the second and third floors would be open to the public, under the supervision of the National Park Service.

Senator BIBLE. What about the first and second floor?

Mrs. CHITTICK. The first floor, is sometimes called a basement, sometimes called the first floor. That is street level floor. The National Woman's Party previously did have their offices on that street level floor.

Senator BIBLE. I would understand that you would want that excluded.

Mrs. CHITTICK. We would assume that, yes. And also the fourth floor, which was previously an attic floor, and does not have any historical significance. The idea is that we would have these two floors.

Senator BIBLE. But, you do not charge admission there, at the present time?

Mrs. CHITTICK. No.

Senator BIBLE. You don't intend to do it in the future?

Mrs. CHITTICK. Well, according to the idea of the plan, we would not be in control of the public admittance.

Senator BIBLE. I see. It's something that's worked out by way of a cooperative agreement?

Mrs. CHITTICK. Yes.

Senator BIBLE. This would be similar to Faneuil Hall in Boston, or the Paul Revere House or the Old State House, any of those great historic sites. I think those are the things that can be worked out, and I agree with the chairman here, I hope we can get it on the calendar on Monday and get it forward as quickly as we can.

You're indicating to me, and I understand you're not an expert on what it costs, I think the figure is pretty low. I had a plumber in last week and decided from a financial view that I shouldn't have been a lawyer; I should have been a plumber.

The costs are high today, and I realize this, and I think we can move forward on it. I'm sold on the project and I think we ought to do it quickly.

Mrs. CHITTICK. I'll raise my estimate of the cost. Shall I say \$300,000? That isn't too much.

Senator BIBLE. You're one of the most conservative women I've ever run into, but \$300,000 isn't unheard of in the Nation's Capital. It's so small.

In any event, we'll get the figure on that. Don't let that worry you. You've given me kind of a range of what you're talking about.

Who's going to take care of the house in the future when the plaster falls off the ceiling, or when it needs a new paint job? Who's going to do that, the National Park Service?

Mrs. CHITTICK. I believe that will be covered by the cooperative agreement.

Senator BIBLE. I understand that, but when it becomes part of the cooperative agreement, I suppose that would be done at the expense of the Federal Government?

Mrs. CHITTICK. I would assume that the part that's under the control of the Park Service, which would be the second and third floors, would be under their control.

Senator BIBLE. I don't see anything particularly wrong with that. Mr. Chairman, as you know, when we took over management of the Kennedy Center, we ran into somewhat a similar problem. We ended up spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in renovating and remodeling it and we'll have to continue to do it.

But, if it's going to be a national shrine for women, and that's what you're saying, then I think the Federal Government should pay its proper share.

Thank you very much.

Any questions, Senator?

Senator JACKSON. No. Thank you very much for the fine statement, and the entire statement will be in the record, as the chairman mentioned, so I think we can move that along.

[The prepared statement of Mrs. Chittick together with the letters referred to previously follow:]

TESTIMONY ON BILL S.3188 - SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE

BY

ELIZABETH L. CHITTICK, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

BEFORE THE

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE

of the

SENATE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, and other members of this committee, it is my great pleasure and honor to testify before you on S. 3188 - a bill to establish the Sewall-Belmont House as an National Historic Site and for other purposes.

The Sewall-Belmont House has been the national headquarters of the National Woman's Party since 1929.

The Sewall-Belmont House is beautiful and majestic, has witnessed many historical events, and has housed many noted figures of law and state. It seems quite fitting that the Sewall-Belmont House should stand gazing serenely out over the magnificent Supreme Court Building, as though demanding justice and equal rights for every free American citizen. The house is in the right place at the right time. It stands as a symbol and commemoration of the women's rights movement. It stands as a symbol of the history and dedication of women to a cause and the awakening of social and moral conscience for the rights of all - men and women. It is a place where women may find their identity with the history of the past in their march for equal rights. It is a place everyone may visit, enjoy and point to with pride. The Sewall-Belmont House should be made a National Historic Site in time for the Bicentennial celebration.

To speak of the history of the National Woman's Party is to speak of Alice Paul, its founder. Alice Paul is the single person who established the National Woman's Party. She was born January 11, 1885 of a Quaker family, and over the years acquired six degrees: B. A. Swarthmore, 1905; M.A. Pennsylvania, 1907; PhD. Pennsylvania, 1912; LL.B. American University; LL.M. American University, 1921; D.C.L. American University, 1928.

She was an active social worker in New York City and England. After her return from England, where ^{she} had been imprisoned twice for her activities in the cause of Suffrage in England, under the leadership of Mrs. Pankhurst, she went to Washington and spearheaded the Suffrage movement.

Testimony - Elizabeth L. Chittick

The National American Woman Suffrage Association was at an all-time low. Alice Paul asked for authority to set-up headquarters in Washington and did so in a basement room on F Street. She immediately felt the need for something stronger than a committee and formed the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, the sole purpose of which was to work toward the Suffrage Amendment. A rift grew between the National American Woman Suffrage Association and the new organization, the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage. The older organization wanted to further suffrage action only through state laws and Alice Paul's organization, the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, wanted to hold "the party in power" responsible for the passage of the Suffrage Amendment.

On September 20, 1918, the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage changed its name to the National Woman's Party and Alice Paul served as its National Chairman throughout the Suffrage campaign and until 1921. After 1920, the National American Woman Suffrage Association changed its name to the League of Women Voters.

The founder of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, Alice Paul, was a tiny woman and was sometimes likened to "Jeanne d'Arc". She was a leader who demanded dedication and loyalty and received it. She had an activist approach and dared to do the dramatic, always in a beautiful and peaceful way. It was Alice Paul who organized the parade of 1913, when 5,000 women marched down Pennsylvania Avenue the night before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration, and subsequent spectacular ones, always with many horses and all participants colorfully dressed as in a stage production. It was Alice Paul who led the women marching up and down in front of the White House, burning any speech of President Wilson's which mentioned "democracy" or "liberty". The women constantly changed guards to keep the fires burning, while demanding their enfranchisement. It was Alice Paul and her followers who went to jail in 1917 and led hunger strikes. The forced feeding of the women and the severe treatment they received while imprisoned drew angry public response and national recognition of the suffrage issue. Many of these women were socially prominent but followed Alice Paul to jail because she had the courage and charisma to inspire women to follow her leadership. She was truly a young inspirational leader.

It was Alice Paul who was the general behind the organized demonstration which finally culminated in Congress passing the Suffrage Act on June 4, 1919.

Testimony - Elizabeth L. Chittick

Now the battle for Suffrage was in the States and the National Woman's Party under the leadership of Alice Paul launched local ratification campaigns, using automobiles and trains to cross the country, stopping at towns enroute to speak on Suffrage. The Suffrage Act, giving the women the right to vote, became the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920.

The National Woman's Party did not believe the battle for equality should stop here. In 1923 they met in Seneca Falls and passed a resolution to ask for an Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in order to obtain the balance of the rights demanded at the first Equal Rights Convention seventy-five years ago, the Seneca Falls Convention of July 19-20, 1848 which were: Equal rights in the franchise, in education, in industry, in the professions, in political office, in marriage, in personal freedom, in control of property, in guardianship of children, in making contracts, in the church, and in the leadership of all moral and public movement. The only right they had received was the right to the franchise.

The National Woman's Party had introduced in Congress in 1923 the first Equal Rights Amendment bill ever proposed for women. It was called the Lucretia Mott Amendment and read:

"Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and in every place subject to its jurisdiction".

It was characteristic of the strategy of Miss Paul to obtain the support of a nephew of Susan B. Anthony, Congressman Dan Anthony, Republican of Kansas, who introduced the first Equal Rights Amendment in the House in 1923. Senator Charles Curtis, Republican of Kansas, later Vice President of the United States, introduced it in the Senate. The outlook was dim - one sponsor in the House, one sponsor in the Senate, and only one woman's organization behind it - the National Woman's Party.

For forty-nine years the National Woman's Party had the Equal Rights Amendment introduced in every succeeding Congress, obtaining more and more sponsors each year. In the beginning some women's organizations opposed the Equal Rights Amendment on the grounds it would render invalid protective state laws, especially those regarding labor, for which so many had worked so long. The National Woman's Party had the vision to see that such legislation only served to further discrimination.

Testimony - Elizabeth L. Chittick

It was in 1948 that the wording of the Equal Rights Amendment was changed to the present words:

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex".

Over the years the National Woman's Party kept the fires burning for the Equal Rights Amendment, educating other organizations, publishing bulletins and maintaining an instant information bureau on the exact status of its progress and sponsors day or night.

There is so much more to be told of the glorious and romantic history of the birth and life of the National Woman's Party, the equal rights party, such as their part in the establishment of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the establishment of the World Woman's Party with headquarters in Geneva, and their part in obtaining an Equal Rights statement for men and women in the historic Preamble of the UN Charter at the San Francisco conference. But this is for a book to be printed sometime in the future.

Over the years, the National Woman's Party, under the dynamic leadership of Alice Paul, devoted most of its energies to the Equal Rights Amendment. It is only the Suffrage and Equal Rights Party and as such an extension of the woman's movement started in 1848. The women of today can identify with and take pride in the efforts of their predecessors who so steadfastly stayed on the path of one goal, women's rights.

On November 9, 1921, the National Woman's Party bought its first permanent headquarters, the Old Brick Capitol, from Charlotte Anita Whitney, and obtained a mortgage to pay for the property. Mrs. Alva Belmont, a prominent society woman, who had become a strong advocate of equal rights paid off the mortgage on September 30, 1922, and deeded the property to the National Woman's Party, with certain stipulations, some of which are: The property was never to be sold, mortgaged or encumbered; if taken under the power of eminent domain, the compensation paid must be reinvested in another building to be used for headquarters and the furthering of the advancement of women; if the National Capitol of the United States of America be moved to some place other than the District of Columbia, then the party would have the right to sell and dispose of the real estate, and the proceeds reinvested in unencumbered real estate in the National Capitol of the United States of America, wherever that might be.

Testimony - Elizabeth L. Chittick

The headquarters of the National Woman's Party on First Street, the Old Brick Capitol, was taken by the power of eminent domain to make way for the Supreme Court Building. The compensation paid was used to purchase the Sewall-Belmont House from Senator and Mrs. Porter H. Dale on April 18, 1929.

Since the National Woman's Party has been at the Sewall-Belmont^{House,} eminent domain has again been a constant threat, due to Senate expansion plans as well as the need for more parking space. The National Woman's Party resisted a plan of eminent domain in 1957-58. On September 6, 1960 Congress passed Public Law 86-706 authorizing tax exemption of the property in the District of Columbia in recognition of the patriotic efforts made by the Party to preserve this historic monument so long as the property was owned by the National Woman's Party.

On October 8, 1969, the Senate passed an Air and Water Pollution bill which had already been passed by the House, and added a rider authorizing \$1.25 million to acquire property for a third Senate office building. The rider took by eminent domain the two small houses adjacent to the main property, without hearings.

The Sewall-Belmont House, so named by the National Register of Historic Places on December 5, 1972, is a stately residence located two blocks from our nation's capitol and one block from the Supreme Court. It is today the only house left reminiscent of the woman's movement since suffrage and is filled with memorabilia, history, articles and gifts from the women who took part in the movement from the suffrage days to this day.

In addition to the history of the woman's movement, there is great historical significance, beginning with early American history.

In 1632, King Charles of England granted a vast tract of land to Cecilius Calvert, second Lord Baltimore. Included in this holding was Jenkins Hill, later to be known as Capitol Hill.

The land was at various times known as "Duddington Manor", "New Troy and Duddington Pastures", "Cerne Abbey Manor", after an ancient Benedictine Foundation in Dorsetshire, England, and the "Daniel Carroll Farm".

When it was decided to have the seat of Federal Government on Jenkins Hill, this part of the City was laid out in lots. Daniel Carroll gave lots 1, 2 and 32 to

Testimony = Elizabeth L. Chittick

the United States, then received back lot 32. In 1793, Daniel Carroll bought lot 1 from the Government and in 1799 he sold the two lots to Robert Sewall. These included the land upon which the house stands.

An 1801-1802 map of Washington shows buildings standing on the lot. Records show that the house thereon was rented in 1801 to Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Jefferson and Madison. It is reported that here is where the "Treaty of Ghent" making way for the Louisiana Purchase was signed.

An important event in the history of the house took place soon after Secretary Gallatin moved out of it in 1813. When the British Army marched on Washington, after they won the Battle of Bladensburg in 1814, some of Commodore Joshua Barney's men of the United States forces stationed themselves in Robert Sewall's house and fired on the British Army as they came along what is now Maryland Avenue, toward the Capitol Building. This is believed to have been the only resistance to the British in their march to burn down the Capitol. At least one of the marching British soldiers was killed, others wounded, and the horse on which General Ross was riding was shot. The General ordered the torch applied to the offending house - the Sewall-Belmont House.

Just how much damage the fire caused is not recorded. That Robert Sewall rebuilt the damaged house before his death in 1822 is a matter of record. For 123 years, this house belonged to Robert Sewall and his heirs. Among them were Susan and Ellen Daingerfield. The former married John Shode Barbour, Senator from Virginia. While Senator Barbour and his wife lived in the House, it was a most hospitable mansion and the center of Washington social life.

Miss Ellen Daingerfield eventually lived alone in the house. Neighbors claimed that they set their watches each day at four o'clock when she drove out to take the air.

After Miss Daingerfield's death, this beautiful building was sadly neglected until it was purchased in 1921 by Senator Porter H. Dale of Vermont, who restored it and added such notable items as the Daniel Webster doors with silver hinges in the drawing room and the dining room.

There is almost as much history inside the house as there is to the land on which it stands. There are four magnificent sculptured busts done by the well-known sculptress, Adelaide Johnson. They include the busts of Lucretia Mott, the mother of the Emancipation for Women Movement; Susan B. Anthony, the great suffrage leader; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a famous leader in the early days of the Movement; and Mrs. Belmont.

testimony - Elizabeth L. Chittick

In the Crypt of the Capitol stands a beautiful monument of larger busts of Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, including a place seemingly for another bust. The National Woman's Party commissioned Adelaide Johnson to do this monument to present to Congress on Susan B. Anthony's birthday anniversary on February 15, 1921, one year after the Suffrage victory. It was formally received on behalf of Congress by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Throughout the world, this is the only monument of women, to women, sculptured by a woman, presented by women, standing in any National Capitol.

In the Sewall-Belmont House, at the end of the great hall, stands a beautiful and valuable marble and ivory statue of Jeanne d'Arc. sculptured by Madame Prosper d'Epinsky, a replica of the one at the Cathedral at Rheims, France.

The house abounds with numerous portraits of pioneers of the Suffrage Movement and of leaders of the National Woman's Party and others active in national civic affairs.

The beautiful mirrors hanging in the dining room and hall are from the old French Embassy. The fine set of rosewood furniture in the drawing room was given by William Randolph Hearst in honor of his mother, Phoebe Apperson Hearst, who was a member of the National Woman's Party Advisory Council until her death.

A plated silver tea service remains in memory of Clara Barton. Present also are Susan B. Anthony's desk, Henry Clay's desk, the early American spool chair of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Secretary Bayard's table desks, Governor Ogle's desk, Supreme Court Justice Field's bookcases and other furniture from the "Old Brick Capitol".

The kitchen is the oldest part of the house and was the family room of the first structure on this site. A large Colonial Fireplace dominates the room as you enter. In this family room is a small circular staircase going to a room above where there is some reason to believe that the Roman Catholics met in secret from 1774 to 1776, during the time public services were banned in the state of Maryland.

Beyond the kitchen is our library, known as the Florence Bayard Hilles Library. Mrs. Elsie duPont, of Wilmington, Delaware was the architect who converted the former coach house and stable to its present form, a beautiful library. This library holds extensive material on the early suffrage movement as well as the Equal Rights Movement. The two beautiful library tables and many of the chairs were given by various Congressmen. Of especial note is the chair, marked by a brass plate, used by Mrs. McKinley, the wife of President McKinley. Standing near the fire place is the statue of the Victory of Samothrace presented to Admiral Richard Wainwright by the Midshipmen of

Testimony - Elizabeth L. Chittick

Annapolis and given to the National Woman's Party after the death of Admiral Wainwright.

The bedrooms contain many pieces of antique pieces of furniture, including four poster beds, desks and armoires.

This house and the land upon which it stands has witnessed many historic moments and events, not the least of which will be the coming ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

I can only reemphasize the importance and timeliness of the passing of Bill S. 3188 in order that the women of this country may have a National Historic Site to commemorate their history and their role in the progress of this great nation in time for the Bicentennial celebration.

Gentlemen, you hold in your hands the power to give women a gift of history forever.

* * * * *

WEAL

Women's Equity Action League
538 National Press Building
Washington, D.C. 20004



May 29, 1974

Ms. Elizabeth L. Chittick
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Ms. Chittick:

This letter is to express the support of the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL) for the bill to make the Sewall-Belmont House a National Historic Site.

The location, history, architecture and furnishings of this house all make it a place of unusual interest to the tourist, the artist, the historian, and to those women seeking a link with a special past. Passage of the bill would also be an appropriate recognition of the many women whose efforts - centered in this house - resulted in the 19th and the proposed Equal Rights Amendments to the Constitution.

We hope that S. 3188 and its companion measure in the House will receive the prompt action which they deserve.

Sincerely,

Arvonne S. Fraser
President

May 30, 1974

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Chairman, Interior and Insular Affairs Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Zonta Club of Washington, composed of women in executive and professional positions, is extremely interested in and supportive of your bill, S.3188, to establish the Sewall-Belmont House as a national historic site.

Our interest stems from our long residences in the Capital and our awareness of the leadership in behalf of women's legal rights which has centered in this historic building. We deem it most appropriate that this long-established headquarters of the National Woman's Party become a national center for the preservation of records and historical memorabilia relating to the advancement of women in this country.

We commend you for your authorship of this proposed legislation and add the voices of our many members to the request for passage of the bill and the establishment of governmental supervision through the instrument of its provisions.

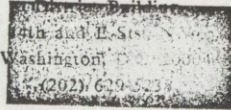
Most sincerely yours,

Marguerite Rawalt
Status of Women Committee

Mary T. Stewart, President

on Zonta letterhead

INTERSTATE ASSOCIATION OF COMMISSIONS
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



Suite 1249
National Press Building
Washington, D. C. 20004
(202) 347-8726

May 17, 1974

The Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Room 137
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jackson:

The Interstate Association of Commissions on the Status of Women heartily endorses your Senate Bill 3188 to make the Sewall-Belmont House a National Historic Site.

The IACSW is made up of official state and local Commissions on the Status of Women throughout the country dedicated to furthering the rights of women. As your remarks to the Senate point out, the women's rights movement itself has no center as a tangible reminder of the many women who have worked for fuller participation in every aspect of the life of our nation.

The Sewall-Belmont House would be such a center, especially appropriate as the Bicentennial and the probable ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment approach.

The IACSW enthusiastically supports this effort.

Sincerely yours,

Joy R. Simonson
President

JRS:lp

20 May 1974

Senator Henry M. Jackson
Senate Office Building
Washington DC

Dear Senator Jackson:

On behalf of Sociologists for Women in Society, an organization of about 1200 persons, most of them professional sociologists, I should like to thank you for introducing Senate Bill 3188 to make the Sewall-Belmont House a National Historic Site and to maintain it, in cooperation with the National Women's Party.

Your action is deeply appreciated by the many women who have, in the past few years, become aware of the part that women have played in the formation of American society.

Sincerely,

Joan Huber, President
Sociologists for Women in Society

c/ Elizabeth Chittick, National Chair
National Woman's Party

May 15, 1974

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Jackson:

The organization of Federally Employed Women, whose membership includes thousands of women employed in federal service throughout the United States, unanimously endorses S. 3188, a bill to establish the Sewall-Belmont House as a National Historic Site.

We believe this would be a fitting gesture to those pioneer women who so gallantly led the struggle for recognition of women as first-class citizens of the United States.

Also, it would serve as a living and practical tribute to the growing number of dedicated women who continue to strive for equality and justice for all Americans, regardless of sex, race, or national origin.

Certainly the Congress must recognize the merits of this proposal as we approach our bicentennial celebration.

Sincerely yours,

Daisy B. Fields
Executive Director
National FEW

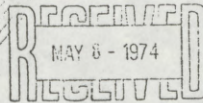
DBF/afc

NATIONAL OFFICE
1017 East 72nd Street
Cleveland, OH 44102
(216) 522-4936

7012 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20915
May 6, 1974

Honorable Allen Bible, Chairperson
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

ALAN BIELE



Dear Sir:

UNITED STATES SENATE

This is to urge your support to make the Sewall-Belmont House a national historic site honoring the women's rights movement.

The Washington, D. C., Chapter of the National Organization for Women first enshrined the Sewall-Belmont House in our hearts as symbol of our history and potential for our future in 1970 when we joined the National Women's Party there to honor the 50th anniversary of the passage of suffrage for women. Three generations were represented there: those stalwart suffragists who still survived the fight for suffrage and were still keeping the Equal Rights Amendment alive, we contemporary women now in the mainstream of enunciating a new status, new rights, and new responsibilities for women, and our children who had this inspiring moment to touch hands with the past and begin to form visions of their own potential and dreams of what their future society might aspire to.

Women of all ages, but particularly our future generations of children, need such a historic landmark as the Sewall-Belmont House for our continued inspiration. We urge your favorable consideration of legislation to make this possible.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Camara, President
Washington, D. C., Chapter

cc: National Women's Party

National Organization for Women



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers

WILLIAM SCOTT HEIDE
President
JUDY LIGHTFOOT
Chair-One of the Board
NANCY F. WOOD
Secretary
BONNIE HOWARD
Treasurer

Vice Presidents

GENE BOYER
Finance & Fundraising
JUDITH A. LONNQUIST
Legal
ANN SCOTT
Legislation
VIRGINIA A. CARABILLO
Public Relations
MURIEL FOX
National Advisory Board

Regional Directors

East
JACQUELINE CEBALLOS
Midwest
KATHY RAND
South
JACKIE FROST
West
MILDRED E. KERSH
NANCY FILLER
Asst. Regional Director, West

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHITNEY ADAMS
PATRICIA BURNETT
M. J. COLLINS-ROSSON
KAREN DECROW
MARCILENE DONALDSON
LYNNE TODD EGGERTON
LINDA FARRIS
GERALD GARDNER
CATHERINE IRWIN
GERI KERNYON
MARLYNE KILBEY
ELAINE LAFOURELL
MONNA LIGHTE
DEL MARTIN
MARY LYNN MYERS
PATRICIA MCCORMICK
BETTY NEWCOMB
JUDITH PICKERING
VILLAGRIS SCHUCHAT
ARLIE SCOTT
ELEANOR SWEAL
SUZANNE STICKING
CHARLENE SWEESON
JUNELEE WALKER
TERRY ZIMMERMAN

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

Room 4109

May 8, 1974

Mrs. Elizabeth L. Chittick
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mrs. Chittick:

I am very enthusiastic about Senate Bill 3188, and I would be delighted to testify for it as a private citizen and as a resident of Capitol Hill. It has been suggested to me that if the Committee holdings the hearings will invite the Smithsonian Institution to testify at them we can probably send an official representative.

With best wishes for the success of the proposal,

Sincerely yours,

Margaret B. Klapthor

Margaret B. Klapthor
Curator
Division of Political History

SOURCE
139 Raleigh Street
Rochester, New York 14620
May 3, 1974

The Hon. Henry Jackson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jackson:

We note with pleasure your introduction of bill S.3188 to designate the site of the National Woman's Party Headquarters as a national historic site.

We would appreciate receiving several copies of this bill - at least three if possible and preferably more.

Secondly, we would like to urge your sponsorship in the Senate of a bill comparable to one already introduced by the Hon. James W. Symington in the House on February 14th of this year. H.R. 12850 would designate the birthdate of Susan B. Anthony - February 15 - as a national holiday. This bill is pending before the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee - the Hon. Charles E. Wiggins and the Hon. Don Edwards.

Third, we would like to encourage your membership in the Susan B. Anthony Memorial, Inc. This group, of which we are members, raised the funds and continue efforts to preserve her home and keep it open to the public. She spent her last 40 years at 17 Madison Street here in Rochester as her homebase. We are sending you literature and a membership card, hoping that you will join with us if you have not already in helping to keep this part of our heritage alive.

We agree with you - that much should be done in this country's Bicentennial to recognize the contributions that women have made.

With best wishes,

Norma Muurahainen

Norma Muurahainen, Lavonne Swearingen,
Carol Vlack
Information Task Force, SOURCE

cc: Ms. R. D. Thompson, Treasurer, SBA Memorial, Inc. 66 Stone Island Lane,
Penfield, N.Y. 14526
Ms. Shirlee Kaplan, ERA Enterprises, 1508-10th East, Seattle WA 98102
Ms. Miriam Burge, 1025 Barry Court, St. Louis, Mo. 63122
(Coordinator, NOW SBA Legal Holiday Committee)
Ms. Caroladams, Forestville, NY 14062

CAPITOL HILL *Restoration Society* • WASHINGTON, D. C.

"The Hill is the
Place to Live"

May 6, 1974

Address reply to:

Ms. Elizabeth L. Chittick
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Ms. Chittick:

Thank you for your letter of April 29 concerning S. 3188, Senator Jackson's bill to establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site.

As your neighbors on Capitol Hill, we appreciate both the historical significance of the Alva Belmont House and its importance as a living monument to the women's rights movement. It is indeed appropriate that action be taken to restore and protect this delightful building.

I have referred the bill and supporting material to our Committee on Legislation for evaluation and comment. While I cannot now make a commitment for the Society concerning the particulars of S. 3188, you may be assured that we will be happy to appear in support of your objectives when Senate hearings are held.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society deeply appreciates your continuing efforts to preserve the historical integrity of our community.

Sincerely yours,

Peter G. Powers

Peter G. Powers
President

Communications

JOSEPH A. BEIRNE, President



Workers of America

(AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO)

1925 K STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

TELEPHONE: FEDERAL 7-7711



May 9, 1974

File: 1.14

Ms. Elizabeth Chittick
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Ms. Chittick:

The Communications Workers of America, which represents more than 575,000 men and women in collective bargaining, has endorsed passage of S. 3188, legislation that would designate the Sewall-Belmont House as a National Historical Site to be maintained by the Department of the Interior. I have written to the bill's sponsor, Senator Jackson, and also to the Senate Democratic and Republican leadership expressing CWA's desire to see this bill enacted into public law during the current session of Congress.

CWA believes that it would be especially appropriate if the Senate and House were to pass S. 3188 this year as the Equal Rights Amendment that CWA has supported nears ratification.

Establishment of the Sewall-Belmont House as a lasting memorial is a fitting tribute to the pioneering efforts made throughout our Nation's history by women of courage and conscience who have helped further the liberty of all Americans.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph A. Beirne
President

**DEMOCRATIC
NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

1625 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 797-5900

Robert S. Strauss
Chairman

May 8, 1974

Ms. Elizabeth L. Chittick, Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

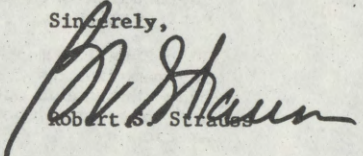
Dear Ms. Chittick:

This is to inform you that I strongly support Senate Bill 3188, as introduced by Senator Henry Jackson.

I think it especially appropriate at this time in our national history that the Sewall-Belmont House be made a National Historic Site.

I would hope that the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives would take the necessary action to make this a reality prior to our country's bicentennial as a permanent recognition of the achievement of suffrage and equal rights for all Americans.

Sincerely,


Robert S. Strauss

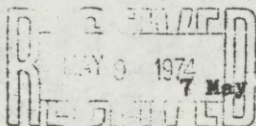
cc: Senator Jackson

MAY 8 1974

FEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Room 1122, Washington, D.C. 20036

PHONE: (202) 833-1998



WASHINGTON, D. C. 20010

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Chairman
Interior and Insular Affairs Committee
Room 137
Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Jackson:

The Federation of Organizations for Professional Women would like to support your Senate Bill 3188 which would make the Sewall-Belmont House a National Historic Site and at the same time allow it to continue its association with the National Woman's Party.

Since the House is the headquarters of the National Woman's Party, has witnessed many historic moments and is filled with memorabilia of Suffrage activities, it is entirely fitting that it be open to the public as are other historic houses. The arrangement whereby the National Woman's Party would maintain its headquarters at the Sewall-Belmont House and share with the Interior Department the restoration and maintenance of the House is entirely fitting.

Again, we would like to emphasize our support and our desire to see this project become a reality.

Sincerely yours,

Jane Aufenkamp
Associate Director

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

Irene Ticker, Ph.D.
President
Women's Caucus for
Political Science
Juret Brown, Ph.D.
At Large Member
American Association
for the Advancement
of Science

Fann Harding, Ph.D.
Past President
Association of Women
in Science
Tena Cummings, Ph.D.
At Large Member
American Psychological
Association

Adrian Tinsley, Ph.D.
President-Elect
Modern Language
Association
Ruth Olman, Ph.D.
At Large Member
American Association
of University Women

Marie C. Casidy, Ph.D.
Secretary
Biophysical
Society
Jean Simmons, Ph.D.
At Large Member
Graduate Women
in Science

Marion E. Webster, Ph.D.
Treasurer
Association of Women
in Science
Eleanor Straub, Ph.D.
At Large Member
American Historical
Association

Cheryl Walker, Ph.D. Associate Director, Modern Language Association

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.
of the United States of America



2012 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 20036
293-1100

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1974
WASHINGTON, D. C. 22 May 1974

The Honorable
Henry M. Jackson
U.S. Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Jackson:

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs warmly supports S. 3188 which you introduced on 19 March 1974.

This bill to preserve the Sewall-Belmont House as a National Historic Shrine is an appropriate tribute to the women who, through many long years, have persisted in their efforts to secure equal rights for all citizens. The furnishings and archives preserved in this house have historical value of high significance, not just to the women's movement, but to the development of our entire national life. It is particularly fitting that the bill you have introduced would make possible the National Historic Site designation in time for the Bicentennial activities in Washington. The Sewall-Belmont House should be of great interest and instruction to those who visit Washington during the Bicentennial and thereafter.

We understand that the National Women's Party, which maintains headquarters in the house, intends to have it open to the public on a daily, full time operation, and we congratulate them for making this contribution to the study of our history.

The National Federation, with 170,000 members who are business and professional women in every congressional district, wishes to extend its support in any way possible to the passage of S. 3188.

Sincerely,

Jean L. McCarrey
Jean L. McCarrey
National President

JLMcC/lir
c: Elizabeth L. Chittick

4559 KAHALA AVENUE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

TELEPHONE: (808) 734-4771

May 25, 1974

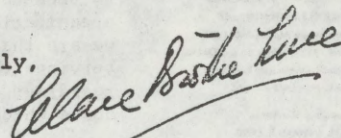
Ms. Elizabeth L. Chittick,
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
Alva Belmont House
144 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Ms. Chittick:

I am well aware of the Sewall-Belmont House, and have a sentimental attachment to it. The first job I had - in 1922! - was working with the National Woman's Party for Miss Alice Paul. Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont thought that I would make a good feminist. My task was to convince Congressmen that the time had come to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. It took thousands of women almost 50 years to accomplish it.

For many reasons, I think that it would be most fitting to have the Sewall-Belmont House become a National Historic Site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clare Boothe Luce". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

The Hon. Clare Boothe Luce



National Council of Women
OF THE UNITED STATES INC.

345 EAST FORTY-SIXTH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 • (212) 697-1278

May 9, 1974

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Honorary President
MRS. SAUL SCHARY

Officers

President
MRS. LLOYD J. PHILLIPS
First Vice President
MRS. GERALD D. LEVY
Second Vice President
MISS DUNCAN MacDONALD
Third Vice President
MRS. MARGARET L. BELCHER
Fourth Vice President
MRS. VAN S. MERLE-SMITH, JR.

Treasurer

DR. DOROTHY GREGG
Secretary
MISS DOROTHEA HOPPER

Members-at-Large

MRS. J. MAX BOND
MRS. DAVID H. COGAN
MRS. ARTHUR H. ELLIS
MRS. DAISY B. GEORGE
MRS. DENNY GRISWOLD
MRS. FLORENCE S. JACOBSEN
MRS. WILLIAM C. JENNINGS
MRS. HARRY J. McCALLION
MISS ELEANOR McMILLLEN
COUNTESS ALICIA PAOLOZZI
MRS. ALEXANDER E. SALZMAN
JUDGE CAROLINE K. SIMON
MRS. PHILLIPS TALBOT

Honorary Members

MRS. OSWALD B. LORD
MRS. BELLE S. SPAFFORD

Senator Henry M. Jackson
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jackson:

I take pleasure in transmitting to you the enclosed resolution adopted by the Board of the National Council of Women of the U.S. in support of the Bill (S.3188) to establish the Sewell-Belmont House as a National Historic Site and to authorize its maintenance as a permanent shrine of American women.

We applaud this proposal not alone for its recognition of women's contributions to the nation, but also because the National Woman's Party is a member organization of our National Council of Women, and we are therefore keenly aware of the extraordinary services the Party's leaders have performed as guardians of the historic treasures lodged in the house which is at once their national headquarters.

In short, we congratulate you on having introduced this far-sighted measure and extend our best wishes for its prompt enactment.

Sincerely,

Ethel C. Phillips
Ethel C. Phillips
President

ECP/cg

Affiliated with the International Council of Women



National Council of Women
OF THE UNITED STATES INC.

345 EAST FORTY-SIXTH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 • (212) 697-1278

May 28, 1974

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Honorary President
MRS. LOUIS J. ROBBINS

Officers

President
MRS. BELLE SPAFFORD
First Vice President
MRS. JOHN WADE SHEPPARD
Second Vice President
MRS. VAN S. MERLE SMITH, JR.
Third Vice President
MRS. MARY B. NICHOLAS

Fourth Vice President
MRS. WILLARD W. RINDLAUB

Secretary
MRS. SAUL SCHARY

Treasurer
MRS. DAVID H. COGAN

Members-at-Large

MRS. N. LORING BOWEN
MRS. LISLE C. CARTER
MRS. SYLVESTER J. CARTER
JUDGE MARY H. DONLON
MRS. ALICE HALL DOWLING
MRS. LLOYD K. GARRISON
MISS DOROTHEA HOPPER
MRS. GERALD D. LEVY
MRS. OSWALD B. LORD
MISS DUNCAN MacDONALD
COUNTESS ALICIA PAOLOZZI
MRS. LLOYD J. PHILLIPS
MRS. DeWITT STETTIN
DR. MARGARET C. WHEELER

Honorary Members

MRS. SOPHIA YARNALL JACOBS
MRS. ROBERT F. LEYDEN
MRS. WILLIAM BARCLAY PARSONS

Executive Director
MRS. EVE R. DYRSSEN

Senator Henry M. Jackson
Chairman,
Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jackson:

Thank you for your kind letter inviting us to testify or submit testimony for the record in support of S. 3188 to establish the Sewall-Belmont House as a National Historic Site.

Since I will not be able to attend the Committee hearing on May 31, I am enclosing the Resolution adopted by our Board on April 3 strongly supporting S. 3188 and setting forth the reasons for urging its enactment. We would appreciate having this statement entered in the record.

In addition, the record also should indicate that the National Council of Women, founded in 1888, is a non-profit, non-partisan association with 27 member organizations representing over 23 million American women of all races, creeds and national origins.

Once again, our best wishes for the success of the far-sighted measure you have introduced.

Sincerely,

Ethel C. Phillips
Ethel C. Phillips
President

Affiliated with the International Council of Women

RESOLUTION Re. DESIGNATION OF THE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE
(HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY)
AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

WHEREAS it was in the Sewall-Belmont House in Washington, D.C., headquarters of the National Woman's Party since 1929, that Miss Alice Paul, the Party's founder, took up the issue of equal rights for women when it was dead and brought it to life, launching the Equal Rights Amendment campaign;

WHEREAS other headquarters of women's movements have been destroyed, leaving this as the appropriate house that could be called a monument to women;

WHEREAS designating it as such would be a fitting tribute to women, as well as an appropriate contribution to the U.S. Bicentennial anniversary, and to the enactment of the Equal Rights Amendment;

WHEREAS the Sewall-Belmont House symbolizes the external and internal growth of the Nation--from the earliest land grant to the struggle for independence, to the full achievement of equal rights for men and women;

WHEREAS this House is filled with memories of history, the first Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin having lived there, and it is believed to have been the site of the only active resistance to the British army's march on Washington in 1814, and indeed the property itself dates back to a 1632 land grant to Cecilus Calvert, 2nd Lord Baltimore;

RESOLVED, that the Board of the National Council of Women actively supports the Bill, S.3188, introduced by Senator Henry M. Jackson to establish the Sewall-Belmont House in the District of Columbia as a National Historic Site, and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a cooperative agreement to assist in its preservation for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States.

Adopted by the Board of the National
 Council of Women of the United
 States, Inc., at its Annual Spring
 Meeting, Hotel Plaza, New York,
 April 3, 1974.



Republican
National
Committee.

George Bush, Chairman

May 30, 1974

Ms. Elizabeth Chittick
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Ms. Chittick:

I wholeheartedly support the establishment of a permanent memorial to the efforts and achievements of those who struggle for human rights.

Beginning with the 1872 Republican National Convention, which went on record with the first national statement favoring "additional rights" for women, the GOP has been in the forefront on this issue. The first proposal introduced in the Senate calling for women's suffrage was proposed by a Republican-Senator A.A. Sargent of California. We have actively supported the Equal Rights Amendment since 1940. Thus, we are proud of the part we have played in this historic movement.

We all look forward to the day that equality for women will cease to be an issue and become a reality. There will continue to be a need for a permanent monument to chronicle this distinguished heritage.

Sincerely,

George Bush

Senator BIBLE. Dr. Jacqueline Balk Tusa, National Women's Political Caucus, Silver Spring, Md.

You may proceed.

STATEMENT OF DR. JACQUELINE BALK TUSA, SPOKESWOMAN FOR THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

Dr. TUSA. My name is Jacqueline Balk Tusa. As spokeswoman for the National Women's Political Caucus, and as an historian, I should like to testify in behalf of the passage of the Senate bill 3188, establishing the Sewall-Belmont House as a national historic site with appropriate funding to restore, preserve, and maintain it as part of our Nation's past.

The "National Register of Historic Places" published by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, February 19, 1974, lists a total of over 7,000 residences, buildings, and other properties designated historic by the Federal Government.

Senator BIBLE. That's beautifully said and I do appreciate your contribution.

You say that the feminist movement had its beginnings at Seneca Falls, N.Y. in 1848. What do you find in Seneca Falls, N.Y., commemorating that event?

Dr. TUSA. You can find the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House and a plaque at the First Congregational Church, which was where the meeting was held.

The formal organization of the woman's rights movement in the United States, the First Congregational Church later became a movie house in the 20th century, and the only thing left, it is now abandoned, and the only thing left on the brick building is a plaque which indicates that this was where the Seneca Falls meeting was held.

Senator BIBLE. Aren't there any other tributes to women throughout the entire United States of America?

Dr. TUSA. There are individual houses. There is the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House and the Susan B. Anthony House, the Juliet Gordon Lowe House, all of these are national historic landmarks; but as far as the women's movement as a whole is concerned, there is no building left which can at all be identified as a very real part of the struggle for women to attain equality under the law.

So, in essence, the Sewall-Belmont House is the last physical structure we have.

Senator BIBLE. I'm sure you can detect, I shouldn't have said the hand that rocks the cradle because I sensed here that you're not suggesting that you don't think that women should still rock the cradle. We're going to be in terrible shape if we don't have women rocking the cradle.

Dr. TUSA. Senator Bible, I'm not suggesting anything. All I'm saying is that the very few options open to women when Alice Paul established the Congressional Union, officially as an independent organization in 1914, independent of the National American Women's Suffrage Association, of the few options open to women,

organizing, and unfortunately philosophy were denied to her. Alice Paul changed that in the 20th century.

Today, she would probably be unjustly called a militant. In those days she was called many other very uncomplimentary things, even emanating from the White House, as a matter of fact. President Wilson didn't believe that she fit in with the southern concept of woman and chivalry, because she dared to stand up for her rights and the rights of all women.

What Alice Paul did, what Elizabeth Cady Stanton theoritized in 1848 was simply that women have equal capabilities with men.

In 1923, for example, the Woman's Party, under the leadership of Alice Paul, proposed the Lucretia Motte amendment, or the equal rights amendment to the Constitution. We're still waiting for that, of course.

Senator BIBLE. You've made some headway on that one. You've got a few problems in a few States, including my own State, but I voted for you here.

Dr. TUSA. We know that.

Senator BIBLE. I want to ask you one question.

As to this women's problem, I don't think it has anything to do with the Sewall-Belmont House as an historic site.

I always understood that financial wealth of the country was, in effect, owned by women. Is that true?

Dr. TUSA. No, it is not true.

Senator BIBLE. I don't think there's anything wrong with it.

Dr. TUSA. I wish it were true. I wish we had the power that went with holding all of that financial power. I wish we had political clout.

Senator BIBLE. I'm going to write the Wall Street Journal and ask them, because I got this impression somewhere, and I'm a lawyer by profession, and I understood that the majority of stock ownership on all holdings on the American big board in the New York Stock Exchange, and all the exchanges and all of the stocks and all of the corporations, that the majority of them is held by women. You say I'm wrong?

Dr. TUSA. No. I say in name only, Senator.

For tax purposes, this has been done over the years, by husbands, fathers, and sons, as a matter of fact.

Senator BIBLE. I'm telling you, the stock that my wife has in her name, and I very seldom see any of the dividends.

But, I'll check that out.

Dr. TUSA. I hope you do, and good for her if that's the case.

Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you. You made an important contribution.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Tusa follows:]



Win With Women A Project of the National Womens Political Caucus

FULL STATEMENT BY

DR. JACQUELINE BALK TUSA

BEFORE THE

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE

SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE

MAY 31, 1974

1921 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington D.C. 20006

202-785-2911

My name is Jacqueline Balk Tusa. As spokeswoman for the National Womens Political Caucus and as an historian, I should like to testify in behalf of the passage of Senate Bill 3188 establishing the Sewell-Belmont House as a National Historic Site with appropriate funding to restore, preserve, and maintain it as part of our nation's past.

The National Register of Historic Places published by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, February 19, 1974 (Vol. 39, no. 34, Part II) lists a total of over 7000 residences, buildings, and other properties designated "historic" by the federal government. Fifty-seven of these sites are identifiable as residences of American women or in some other way associated with the history of the American woman. This is less than 1% of all properties considered worthy of historic recognition by the Department of the Interior. Of these 57 properties, 15 have been designated "National Historical Landmarks"; less than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of the total number of sites so designated. The numerical variance is obvious. The reasons behind the disparity are more subtle and more insidious. Quite simply, the history of the American woman, with rare exception, has been obliterated from the pages of our past. This condition is reflected in a lack of interest in and recognition of the value of preserving those sites significant to the history of one half of the nation's population. The disparity in the expenditure of federal funds for the preservation and maintenance of those properties belonging to men and institutions absent from even the most detailed histories of the American people and those of American

women whose real contributions to our progress as a nation is a result of ignorance of and disinterest in the history of our foremothers. It further underscores the historical tendency to ignore women's roles as philosophers, theoreticians, organizers, and contributors to our intellectual, political, and social development.

For numerous reasons, Americans have "lost" the history of their foremothers. It is this "lost" history that must be restored. It must be restored not merely for American women, but for all Americans of both sexes. Without her story, the history of our nation remains incomplete. And as citizens, we are all the poorer for it. Designating the Sewell-Belmont House, the home of the National Woman's Party, a National Historic Site will represent one more step in the process of reclaiming that "lost" part of America's past. It is to this end that the National Womens Political Caucus supports the passage of S. 3188.

As an Historic Site, the Sewell-Belmont House will preserve for future generations historical evidence and documentation of the supreme battle waged by one unique group of women to secure the constitutional enfranchisement of the one half of our population denied this fundamental right of citizenship merely because of gender. To place the National Woman's Party in its proper historical context, one should first be familiar with the history of the woman's rights movement in the United States from its formal beginning in 1848 to the organization of the Congressional Union, later the Woman's Party, in 1913.

The seeds of the woman's rights movement were sown in the tumultuous decade of the 1830's, a period of unprecedented reform sentiment, turmoil, and activism. It arose from the involvement of middle class female reformers in the abolitionist movement. As a minority of female abolitionists came to realize that they, too, were in legal, economic, and political bondage, they concluded that to speak of freedom for the enslaved black while ignoring the plight of women made the crusade for social justice and equalitarianism a sham. As women, they were denied the right to speak publicly before sexually mixed audiences; denied all the rights of citizens - from jury duty to the franchise; denied economic equality; denied entrance into publicly supported colleges, universities, and even public schools as well as into the skilled trades and professions. Once married, they were given the status of legal minors and were considered, under law, to be civilly dead and "non-people." Accordingly, this minority of abolitionist-reformers began to view woman for what she was - a legal, political, and economic cipher.

The psychological brutality, as well as the legal and economic injustices committed against women, brought New York born Elizabeth Cady Stanton to conclude that every man-made institution, every social institution that granted man superiority over woman must be changed to end the subordination of one sex to the other. The inconsistency and hypocrisy of those championing crusades for the abolition of a myriad number of social injustices, but blinded to or disinterested in the plight of women finally led her to direct action. In July, 1848, along with famed Quaker abolitionist and minister Lucretia Mott and three

other female sympathizers, Stanton issued a call for a meeting to be held at Seneca Falls, New York. The meeting was designed to bring before the nation the grievances of the American woman. Using the Declaration of Independence as a model, Stanton wrote the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions in which she set forth the numerous "crimes perpetrated against the female race" by social, religious, and legal institutions. She argued that men and women had the same intellectual capabilities and that they should have the same responsibilities and opportunities as human beings and as American citizens to participate freely in every aspect of public life.

The principles enunciated at Seneca Falls aroused a good deal of attention and attracted support among a vocal minority of citizens in New England, upper New York State, and even in the middle west during the years prior to the Civil War. In 1850, the National Woman's Rights Association was organized to turn Stanton's rhetoric into a crusade to eliminate injustice and discrimination against women. Although lacking solid organization and funds and attracting only the smallest following, these feminists, both men and women, met annually during the 1850's to discuss and plan strategy for redressing female grievances through law.

During the Civil War, the woman's rights movement, as it came to be known, suspended its activities to devote full time to lobbying for the emancipation of the slave. After the war, the movement split over the issue of the Fourteenth Amendment granting Black males the right to vote. Stanton, ^{and New York's} ~~now joined by~~ Susan B. Anthony, refused to believe that

this was exclusively the Black man's hour. They believed that the Fourteenth, and subsequently the Fifteenth amendment, should stand as the natural end result of the long crusade for social justice begun in the 1830's. They argued that there should be no priorities when freedom and justice were at last meted out. There had to be social justice not merely for the newly freed man but for the white woman as well.

The "uncompromising" stand taken by Stanton and Anthony led to a schism in the feminist ranks ,for female abolitionists in more conservative Boston maintained that the nation was ready now for only one great social revolution and that it was truly the Black man's hour. Woman's rights would have to wait. For Stanton and Anthony the issue of enfranchisement and the over-all amelioration of the position of women in the United States would not wait. To this end, they organized the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. The objectives of this organization included passage of a federal constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the suffrage and a commitment to the philosophy that all of society's institutions must be changed to enable women to achieve equality with men. The rival, and more conservative Boston-based feminist group, the American Woman Suffrage Association, also founded in 1869, was single issue oriented. It was dedicated to gaining the ballot for women on a state by state basis, either through state constitutional amendments or popular referenda.

Ironically, the issue that had proven most controversial at the Seneca Falls meeting in 1848 - the enfranchisement of women - by 1890 became the most conservative, socially acceptable, and singular goal of woman's rights advocates. For by that time, in an age of stark conservatism, the right to vote had achieved the status of panacea for all of woman's ills. Accordingly, in 1890, the two rival suffrage organizations joined together to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association. By the first decade of the twentieth century, leaders of the Association had virtually abandoned the campaign for constitutional redress and, instead, committed its financial resources and personnel to securing the ballot for women on a state by state basis.

By 1912, the Stanton/Anthony goal of the constitutional enfranchisement of women stood no closer to realization than when initially introduced in the Senate in January, 1878. The so-called "Anthony amendment" had not been debated on the Senate floor since 1887 and had never even reached the floor of the House for debate. There had been no favorable committee report on the amendment in the Senate since 1892 and none in the House since 1890. Although the National American Woman Suffrage Association maintained a Congressional Committee in Washington, its functions remained limited. The Association's leadership preferred the slow, expensive, and too frequently futile state by state campaigns to an all out crusade for a federal suffrage amendment. The Committee itself lacked the funds necessary to wage a successful public relations in behalf of the amendment. Its most serious flaw, however, lay in the

political inexperience and naivete of its members in dealing with Congress. It lacked strong leadership and direction.

In 1912, both the activities of the Committee and the future of the Anthony amendment changed when Alice Paul and Lucy Burns were appointed to the Association's Washington Committee. Both women had served apprenticeships under Emmeline Pankhurst in the Women's Social and Political Union, the militant wing of the British suffragist movement. In 1910, Paul, a Quaker pacifist, social worker, and feminist, had returned to America determined to secure political redress for the American woman by constitutional fiat. To Paul, this meant reviving interest in the moribund Anthony amendment and making its passage in Congress the singular priority of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. In January, 1913, she came to Washington as Chairwoman of the Association's Congressional Committee. Philosophically, Paul represented a blend of the innovative, dynamic, uncompromising feminism of Stanton and Anthony. Practically, she demonstrated the organizational expertise and political acuity of a master builder. In less than a year, the inevitable clash occurred between Paul's dynamic activism and her single-minded commitment to constitutional enfranchisement and the National American Woman Suffrage Association's determination to pursue its traditional policy of state by state enfranchisement.

In February, 1914, Alice Paul and her followers severed ties with the National Association and, as the now independent Congressional Union, pursued its end by highly unorthodox means. The most unique aspect of the Union's program was its politicizing the federal suffrage amendment

issue. By holding the national party in power responsible "for failure to pass the woman suffrage bill or to act to further its passage through Congress," the membership hoped to force the overwhelmingly Democratic Congress to act on the amendment. Beginning with the off year Congressional elections of 1914, the Union, and later its successor, the Woman's Party, implemented this policy by campaigning against Democratic candidates for the House of Representatives no matter their views on woman's suffrage. In 1916, the Union opposed President Wilson's bid for a second term because of his equivocation on the issue of constitutional enfranchisement and his concomitant failure, as titular head of the majority party, to influence Congressional Democrats to support the measure.

Lobbying, however, remained the Union's major work. During Congressional sessions, Union members daily sought out and attempted to sway anti-suffrage Representatives. To the astonishment and frequent irritation of the Congressmen, the lobbyists were armed with a plethora of personal and political information about their quarry. Under Paul's guidance, the Union membership had developed a highly sophisticated "card-file index" on every member of Congress. This data bank included information on everything from voting records to committee assignments to newspapers read to the political strengths and weaknesses of each incumbent in his Congressional district. The index, painstakingly assembled by Union members, can be found today in the library of the

Sewell-Belmont House.

In March, 1914, the Union's lobbying efforts succeeded in forcing the issue onto the floor of the Senate. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 35 to 34. On January 12, 1915, the measure came up on the floor of the House where it was defeated, 204 to 174. The Anthony amendment would not be voted on again in either chamber until 1918.

From 1913 through 1916 the Congressional Union (The Woman's Party as of June, 1916) was the only effective organization working for passage of a federal suffrage amendment. Its members had resurrected and breathed life into the moribund issue by politicizing it. It had focused national attention on the Anthony amendment with massive suffrage parades, open air rallies, and cross country auto caravans of women bringing petitions to Congress demanding action on the suffrage amendment. By 1916, however, the new leadership of the National American Woman Suffrage Association recognized the futility of pursuing the singular course of individual state suffrage campaigns. It also recognized the significance of the Woman's Party efforts to secure passage of the Anthony amendment. More conservative in tone and strategy, and thus more acceptable to politicians of both parties, the Association renewed its long abandoned efforts for federal enfranchisement. The National's conservatism counterbalanced the increasing impatience and growing militancy of the Woman's Party membership over President Wilson's indifference to the issue and congressional inaction.

Impatience flared into dramatic action when on January 16, 1917, twelve members of the Woman's Party stood silently before the White House gates with banners reading "Mr. President, What Will You Do For Woman Suffrage?" and "How Long Must Women Wait For Liberty." These "silent sentinels" became the first women ever to picket the Executive Mansion. The picketing that began in January, 1917, lasted for more than a year and a half. During that time, except for Congressional recesses, over 1,000 members of the Woman's Party silently demonstrated before the White House and the Capital every day of the week except Sunday.

On March 2, 1917, Congress, with the warm public endorsement of President Wilson, approved the Jones Act making Puerto Rico a United States territory and granting suffrage to all its male citizens. On April 7, the United States declared war on Germany. A week later, the Creel Committee, established by executive order, began its work as a propaganda agency to unite American public opinion behind the war effort. On June 15, Congress passed the Espionage Act, circumscribing constitutional guarantees of free speech, press, and assembly for those opposed to America's entry into World War I. These events had a significant effect on the protest activities of the Woman's Party. They also marked the beginning of one of the bleakest episodes in the history of the suffrage movement.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association rallied to President Wilson's side in his crusade to "keep the world safe for democracy." Its leadership pledged to abandon temporarily its

campaign for the Anthony amendment and devote its activities and personnel to the war effort on the home front. In return, Wilson tacitly agreed to endorse openly the suffrage amendment and use his influence to pressure Congress to follow suit. The Woman's Party, however, with its large Quaker membership, openly opposed American military intervention abroad. War or no war, there would be no moratorium on the suffrage issue for them.

True to their word, Party members continued picketing the White House. The banners held by the suffragists became more pointedly critical of President Wilson and the tolerance and interest heretofore displayed toward the demonstrators by onlookers disappeared. On June 20, 1917, a crowd of government workers, uniformed military, and hoodligans mobbed several pickets. No arrests were made. On June 22, the first suffragists were arrested. The charge, obstructing pedestrian traffic. To the impartial observer it was obvious that the women had violated no law nor perpetrated any crime. These suffragists, however, were among the first to have their civil liberties abrogated in the superpatriotic atmosphere of wartime America.

Once begun, the arrests multiplied at an alarming rate. Suffragists, never their attackers, found themselves hauled away by District of Columbia police. The charge always remained the same: obstructing sidewalk traffic. Violence and arrests strengthened rather than deterred the Party's members. The silent demonstrations continued. The arrests continued. And the District Courts increased sentences from a few days to six weeks and eventually to six months confinement. Between April 2

and October 6, 1917, 218 women from 26 states were arrested; 97 were jailed. Many were confined in the notorious Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia, others in the only slightly less noxious District of Columbia jail. They were held incommunicado, subject to physical brutality, illegally transferred from the District to Virginia, and denied the basic legal right of citizens to confer with counsel. Many at Occoquan participated in hunger strikes which resulted in their being force fed by authorities. Reports of the horrors of Occoquan and the bravery of the suffragists filled the newspapers. The National American Woman Suffrage Association disavowed their imprisoned sisters despite the injustice of the arrests and the treatment they were receiving at the hands of prison authorities. The National in no way wanted to be linked in the public's mind with the allegedly anti-patriotic activities of the Woman's Party. President Wilson, despite receiving secret reports on the treatment of the suffragists, publicly pleaded ignorance of conditions at Occoquan and of the indignities suffered by the internees.

The Woman's Party vigil around the White House continued. For every one suffragist arrested, two more would appear the next day. Court orders brought sick, weak, emaciated prisoners from Occoquan to the District courts. It was here that the public saw physical proof of the ravages wrought by imprisonment and maltreatment. It was here they heard first hand of the brutality suffered by the demonstrators. Wilson could no longer plead ignorance. The American people could no longer ignore the plight of the suffragists. Something had to be

done. On November 27 and 28, 1917, the prisoners were unconditionally released. Four months later in March, 1918, the District Court of Appeals voided all of the prison sentences and the original arrests as well. Dozens of affidavits made by the imprisoned suffragists, invaluable as historical documents, are in the files at the headquarters of the National Woman's Party, the Sewell-Belmont House.

The Woman's Party campaign of "passive resistance" refocused national attention on the suffrage amendment. Although the National American Woman Suffrage Association deserves credit for behind-the-scenes maneuvering on Capital Hill, it is hardly a coincidence that on September 15, 1917, one day after New Mexico Senator Andrieus Jones, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Woman Suffrage, visited Occoquan to inspect conditions, his Committee issued a favorable report on the Anthony amendment. Nine days later, the House established its own Committee on Woman Suffrage. In December, the lower Chamber set January 10, 1918, to vote on the amendment.

On January 9, 1918, President Wilson publicly announced his support for the Anthony amendment. The next day, the House of Representatives passed the amendment, 274 to 136. Victory proved short-lived. It took another year and a half and the election of a new Congress to get the suffrage amendment through the United States Senate. Throughout 1918 and part of 1919, the Woman's Party protested delay and political equivocation by resuming its activities. "Watch fires" were set in front of the Executive Mansion, Wilson's speeches supporting suffrage were set to the torch, and the picketing resumed. Arrests,

convictions, and internment of the suffragists again brought new publicity for the advocates of constitutional enfranchisement. Coincidentally, the National American Woman Suffrage Association indicated its impatience with Congress by a well publicized foray into national politics in the elections of 1918. The enfranchisement of women in three more states (South Dakota, Michigan, and Oklahoma) in that same year and the petition of 24 state legislatures to Congress asking "for submission of the suffrage amendment to the states" in February, 1919, pointed to victory for the Anthony amendment when the Sixty-sixth Congress met in special session in the Spring.

Congress convened on May 20, 1919. President Wilson cabled his support for passage of the amendment from Paris. The House repassed the amendment that day, 304 to 89. On June 4, the United States Senate followed suit by a vote of 56 to 25. Ratification of the amendment by the states took fourteen long and difficult months. On August 18, 1920, Tennessee ratified - the 36th and last state needed for the Anthony amendment to become the law of the land. Eighty-two years after Elizabeth Cady Stanton proposed enfranchising the American woman and forty-five years after Susan B. Anthony drafted the amendment that bore her name, the deed had been accomplished. "The right of citizens to vote" could "not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

The suffrage amendment notwithstanding, true equality under the law was still denied the American woman. Members of the Woman's Party, as philosophical descendents of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, believed that until women gained equality with men in all spheres of public life, they would remain second class citizens. ~~The Woman's~~

To secure this objective, the Party proposed the "Lucretia Mott" or Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution in 1923. The amendment read: "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction." The National Woman's Party had only begun its fight.

To grant the Sewell-Belmont House, the headquarters of the National Woman's Party, the status of a National Historic Site is to preserve for our descendents a record of the objectives, accomplishments, and even the defeats of one group of women involved in a two century old struggle for equality. Buildings once destroyed are lost forever. Buildings once housing individuals and groups engaged in struggles until very recently ignored by history are even more priceless and must be preserved. Buildings housing rare collections of journals, autobiographies, testimony, and unpublished histories of any reform movement must be safeguarded for posterity. Buildings quartering the priceless artifacts of theoreticians and philosophers of a reform movement must be maintained. Buildings alive with the echoes of countless hundreds of anonymous people bound together in a struggle for human dignity must be protected. The Sewell-Belmont House must be preserved for all of these reasons - and one more.

As we approach the bicentennial celebration of our nation's birth, American women are no longer content to remain an unacknowledged part of our country's past. Until recently, women have not been conspicuous

by their absence from the pages of our history. It was assumed that from 1607 on they were all involved in fulfilling their natural, biological destinies; propagating the species; mothering future leaders of the nation; and gaining identity and prominence through the accomplishments of fathers, husbands, and sons. Today, however, as a result of the newest phase of the feminist movement that had its formal beginnings at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, American women are no longer content with artificial anonymity. They want their past returned to them. Approval of S. 3188 will provide American women the opportunity to discover a part of that past so long denied them. Equally important, however, is that as a National Historic Site, the Sewell-Belmont House will provide all Americans an opportunity to become familiar with one vital aspect of woman's part in our history. It will further provide them with an opportunity to acquaint themselves with those courageous and very human beings who fought in numerous ways for equality and dignity against the most deeply entrenched prejudices and the most overwhelmingly obstacles.

It is only when we learn the history of the American woman, whether abolitionist, legalist, suffragist, prohibitionist, pacifist, labor leader, or simply citizen, can we all achieve a better and deeper understanding of ourselves as a nation and as a people. By preserving the Sewell-Belmont House we can take yet another step in discovering the lost history of the American woman. As our foremothers shed their anonymity, all Americans can truly discover a more complete past. We then, in truth, will be able to paraphrase an 18th century French settler in America by saying "we now know, who then was this woman, this American."

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is the Honorable Louise Gore. Is Mrs. Gore here?

Our next witness is Mrs. Lucille Shriver, executive director, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, and a woman I've known for some years and is always very fair.

Mrs. Shriver, it's nice to have you.

Mrs. SHRIVER. Thank you, Senator.

STATEMENT OF LUCILLE H. SHRIVER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.

Mrs. SHRIVER. I'm honored to be here before this subcommittee today to testify on behalf of the National Federation in favor of S. 1388, a bill to designate the Sewall-Belmont House as a national historic site.

You have my statement, Senator, and I'm going to skip over to—

Senator BIBLE. If you have the full statement, we'll have it incorporated into the record.

[The prepared statement of Mrs. Shriver follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LUCILLE H. SHRIVER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.

Mr. Chairman, I am Lucille H. Shriver, Executive Director of The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. I am honored and pleased to appear before this Subcommittee to testify on behalf of the Federation in favor of S. 3188, a bill to designate the Sewall-Belmont House as a National Historic Site.

Others here today will undoubtedly document the many historic events which occurred at the Sewall-Belmont House. As a national organization composed of nearly 170,000 working women throughout the United States, we would like to base our support for S. 3188 on the important role the Sewall-Belmont House has played in the long struggle for women's rights in America.

The involvement of this site with women's rights came as early as the Seventeenth Century, when the land was under the management of Margaret Brent, possibly the first woman in this country to ask for rights for women commensurate with those of men. Although Margaret Brent failed in her attempt to gain a voice in the General Assembly, later owners of this property were more successful.

In 1929, the Sewall-Belmont House became the headquarters of the National Woman's Party, the driving force behind the American woman's campaign to win the right to vote, a right achieved by ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

In 1974, American women are still seeking full equality under the law. The National Woman's Party today is involved in the struggle to gain ratification of the proposed Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the Constitution, which would guarantee equal legal rights to men and women.

The history of the women's rights movement is an important part of the history of America. The Sewall-Belmont House is filled with mementos of this history, including Susan B. Anthony's desk, memorabilia of Suffrage activities, and busts of Lucretia Mott, Alva Belmont, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Dr. Caroline Brown Winslow, and other famous women.

It is fitting, we believe, that there be in the Nation's Capitol a place where all citizens—men as well as women, boys as well as girls—can go to learn about the history of women's rights and the contributions women have made to our country throughout its existence.

The Sewall-Belmont House is such a place. Its location near the Capitol is convenient for visitors, and its preservation is especially appropriate since it is the only women's movement building of its kind still in existence.

We hope that S. 3188 will be approved quickly by Congress, so that the house can be open to the public on a daily basis, as the National Woman's Party proposes, in time for the celebration of the Bicentennial.

During that celebration, when Americans are rediscovering their heritage, the Sewall-Belmont House will serve as a unique reminder that the struggle for women's rights and for full equality under the law for all citizens is not something new, but is a continuing struggle with strong roots in earlier periods of American history.

Senator BIBLE. Another fine statement.

Thank you very much. I share your views and I hope we can move forward quickly.

Our next witness was scheduled to be the Honorable Rita Z. Johnston, delegate to Inter-American Commission of Women, the O.A.S., Bethesda, Md. She is unable to be here, and I would like to insert her statement at this time.

UNITED STATES COMMITTEE OF COOPERATION



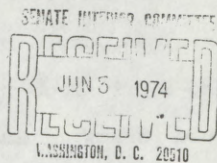
INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

CIM

RITA Z. JOHNSTON
DELEGATE OF
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

May 29, 1974

The Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Chairman
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Senator Jackson:

Enclosed please find my testimony regarding Senate Bill 3811 to establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site.

Since I am unable to attend the hearings, I would greatly appreciate your acceptance of the enclosed statement and its addenda with the understanding that it will appear in full in the record.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Rita Z. Johnston
Delegate of the United States of America
Inter-American Commission of Women, O.A.S.

THE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

By: (Mrs.) Rita Z. Johnston, United States Delegate to the Inter-American Commission of Women, O.A.S.

As the Principal United States Delegate to the Inter-American Commission of Women, I deem it both a responsibility and a privilege to state my full support of Senate Bill 3188 which seeks to make the Sewall-Belmont House a National Historic Site and would authorize the Interior Department, in cooperation with the National Woman's Party, to restore maintain and interpret the house.

In view of the celebration of International Women's Year next year (1975), the approval of this legislation would be most appropriate to highlight recognition of the women's movement in this country which has precipitated the world feminist movement and particularly, as it concerns my interest, the women's movement in Latin America.

The Inter-American Commission of Women which is a specialized organization of the Organization of American States was founded in 1928 as a result of efforts by women of the hemisphere spearheaded by a delegation from the U.S. National Woman's Party. It's first president was a member of the National Woman's Party - Doris Stevens. She served as president of the IACW for ten years. Her leadership laid the groundwork for the outstanding women of the hemisphere who have chaired the IACW since that time.

The Inter-American Commission of Women is the voice of women of all the Americas - their advocate before the member governments of the inter-American system. For forty-six years the IACW has fought for the rights of women, guarded their interests and promoted their progress. After achieving political rights for all the women of the Americas, the IACW has been working to help put those rights into effect and advancing women's economic, social and cultural rights.

The proposed treaty on equal rights presented in Havana in 1928 which preceded the formation of the Inter-American Commission of Women, was drafted by Miss Alice Paul, the Founder and Honorary Chairman of the National Woman's Party. Miss Paul has served therefore not only the women in the United States in her dedication to equal rights, but all the women of the hemisphere. The Sewall-Belmont house, historically so significant to the women of this country, is also important to the history of women of the Americas.

Designation of the Sewall-Belmont house as a National Historic Site would be a fitting tribute and lasting memorial to the development of the social conscience for human rights in the Americas. I sincerely urge a favorable disposition of Senate Bill 3811.

from the News Bulletin of the Inter-American Commission of Women, No. 29, June 1969

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CREATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

Beginning of Movement in favor of Civil and Political Rights for Women in Latin America

At the Fifth International American Conference held in Santiago, Chile, in 1923, a resolution was unanimously approved recommending that the Executive Council of the Pan American Union should include in its program of future conferences a study of ways to abolish constitutional and legal deficiencies or inadequacies arising from sex discrimination, in order to obtain for the American woman the same civil and political rights enjoyed by men. The resolution, proposed by Dr. Máximo Soto Hall, the Delegate from Guatemala, was the first step taken toward the creation of the Inter-American Commission of Women, which was to take place five years later in Havana.

During subsequent years following the approval of the Resolution of 1923, the International Commission of Jurists prepared a project, in draft form, for a Code of Private International Law, to present to the Sixth International American Conference. The project contained 53 articles concerning the status of women.

Convocation of Sixth International American Conference

Consideration of "legislative measures for the recognition of civil rights for women equal to those for men of legal age" was recommended for consideration in the agenda of the Sixth International American Conference.

Although the 1923 resolution recommended "to the governments the integration of the delegations with an element of female personnel so that they would be able to take part in the work of future Conferences," not a single woman appeared in the delegations of the 21 Republics which met in Havana in February 1928.

Nevertheless, a group of women was sent to Havana by the National Woman's Party of the United States, with the objective of proposing the adoption of a treaty establishing the principle of equality between men and women. This group consisted of Mrs. Jane Norman Smith, President of the National Council of the National Woman's Party; Miss Doris Stevens, President of the Committee of International Law; Miss Muna Lee, of the Puerto Rico Chapter; Mrs. Alice M. Park, of the California Chapter; and Mrs. Valentine Winters, of Ohio, a member of the National Council. The headquarters of the National Woman's Party was located at the Biltmore Hotel of Havana during the Conference.

U.S. Woman's Organization Declares
Itself in Favor of Equal Rights

Miss Doris Stevens, as Chairman of the Committee on International Law, presented the official position of the National Woman's Party in the following words:

"We have come to the Pan American Conference to propose the first treaty ever proposed by women on behalf of women in the history of the world.

"We propose a treaty which will make impossible further subjection of women in the 21 sovereign American States, members of the Pan American Union.

"We propose this treaty at a time when a new code of international law is being born on these continents. The new world is making new laws which will vitally affect the lives of the majority of men and women of the western hemisphere.

"Women of the new world come for action to this international body because it has full power to draft a treaty which will end the subjection of women on these continents.

"The Pan American Conference has the great opportunity to do beautiful and historic things: to begin negotiations of a treaty on behalf of the 21 sovereign States, affirming the principle that men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the new world."

The proposed Treaty on Equal Rights was drafted by Miss Alice Paul, of the United States of America, Advisory Chairman of the National Woman's Party. It provided for equal status for men and women in the laws of the 21 republics of the Western Hemisphere, and was presented for the first time in Havana, at the International American Conference. Its first article says: "The high contracting parties agree that upon ratification of the present treaty, men and women shall have Equal Rights in all the territories subject to their respective jurisdiction."

Women in Latin America and in the United
States Join in a Common Effort

While in Havana, the delegation from the National Woman's Party combined efforts with those of enthusiastic groups of feminist leaders of Cuba and other countries of America that were interested in improving the status of women in the hemisphere.

A large committee of Cuban women was formed to work with Mrs. Smith and Miss Stevens during the Conference. The Committee conferred with Dr. Antonio Sánchez Bustamante, President of the Conference, on the best method of bringing the Treaty on Equal Rights before the Conference. Members of the Committee were informed that according to Conference Regulations, only the delegates

are permitted to speak on the floor, so that they could not address the meeting. The women then besieged the delegates, most of whom insisted that there was no room on the Agenda of the Conference for discussion of the matter.

At a ceremony held on the anniversary of José Martí's birth, 200 Cuban women, together with representatives of the National Woman's Party in Havana, marched through the streets carrying flags and banners. The women petitioned the right to plead their own cause in a public session during the Conference.

They placed a floral offering in the name of the women of America. A dramatic climax of the ceremonies occurred when they released two hundred doves, each of which bore, on a small slip of paper, a quotation from José Martí in favor of justice and equal rights for women.

After a month's active campaigning, the efforts of the women to make themselves heard during the Conference were crowned with success. Dr. Jacobo Varela Acevedo, the Uruguayan Delegate, presented the following resolution at the Steering Committee of the Sixth International American Conference which was approved February 7, 1928.

The Sixth International American Conference:

AGREES:

To invite, with extra-official character, the representatives of the various feminist associations which have requested an audience, to set forth before the Conference, at a Plenary meeting and after its agenda has been exhausted, their viewpoints on the matter of civil and political rights for women.

That same day more than a thousand women filled the galleries, staircases and the conference floor of the University of Havana's Great Hall. The speakers who represented them addressed the Conference and appealed to the delegates to approve the Treaty on Equal Rights, which would eliminate all legal discrimination against women.

The Women Ask the Conference to Hear Them

The first speech was delivered by Dr. Julia Martínez, one of the founders of the women's movement in Cuba. She was followed by Mrs. Jane Norman Smith. Miss Doris Stevens gave the main address and presented the proposed text for the Equal Rights Treaty to the Conference, stressing the necessity of action through the Pan American Conference, not by separate countries, in obtaining equal rights for women in the American republics. She requested that women be permitted to work in the Conference and its respective sub-committees, as colleagues rather than assistants.

Other speakers strongly appealed for their rights in the following order: Mrs. María Montalvo de Soto Navarro, President of the National Federation of Feminine Associations of Cuba; Miss Flintha Mas y Gil, of the Dominican Republic;

Miss Muna Lee, of the National Woman's Party; Mrs. Angela Mariana Zaldivar, a Cuban attorney; and Mrs. Pilar Jorge de Tella, founder of the Cuban Feminine Club.

Copies of all the speeches were translated into English, Spanish and Portuguese and delivered to the delegates, who followed them with the greatest attention for the two hours that the meeting lasted.

The Secretary General read a petition bearing 5,000 signatures, urging the Conference to consider fully the rights of women.

An hour before that public meeting, the Conference approved a resolution "recommending to the countries of the Pan American Union that they incorporate in their legislation provisions for an obligatory forty days of leave of absence to mothers before and after childbirth, with enjoyment of full wages or salary, regardless of whether their employment is public or private."

Leaders of the women's movement expressed the opinion that they desired to take part in the discussion and passage of just this kind of legislation.

Women Speak for the First Time in a Pan American Conference

This occasion marked the first time women, without even the status of delegates, were ever officially heard at a plenary and public session of any Pan American Conference.

The Equal Rights Treaty was not adopted, but on February 18, 1928, the Sixth International American Conference unanimously approved a resolution creating the Inter-American Commission of Women. This resolution was of extraordinary importance: for the first time in history, an official international organization was established for the purpose of promoting women's rights.

Inter-American Commission of Women Established

The resolution read as follows:

RESOLVED:

That an Inter-American Commission of Women be constituted to take charge of the preparation of juridical information and data of any other kind which may be deemed advisable to enable the Seventh International American Conference to take up the consideration of the civil and political equality of women in the continent.

Said Commission shall be composed of seven women from various countries of America appointed by the Pan American Union, this number to be increased by the Commission itself until every Republic in America has a representative on the Commission.

A special committee of the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, composed of the Ambassador of Brazil, Dr. S. Gurgel do Amaral, President of the Commission on Women's Civil and Political Rights; the Minister of Colombia, Dr. Enrique Olaya, and the Minister of Bolivia, Dr. Eduardo Diez de Medina, were given the responsibility of studying the most feasible way to implement the resolution of the Sixth International American Conference regarding the establishment of a women's commission. The special committee expressed the opinion that the most appropriate method was to "select by lot the six representatives of the countries of America, who, with Miss Doris Stevens, initiator of the movement, shall form the Commission of seven women."

First Members and Directors of the IACW

On April 4, 1928, the special committee chose by lot the following countries: Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Panama, and Venezuela.

Upon hearing of the action of the Governing Board, Miss Stevens said: "When we asked the Pan American Conference in Havana for this Women's Committee, it was the first time that such a request had been made to the Conference. That they granted it the first time it was presented is to their immortal honor."

Miss Stevens was named Chairman of the Commission by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union in recognition of her arduous work in behalf of women's rights and in particular for her successful campaign at the Sixth International American Conference during which the resolution of February 18, 1928 created the Commission.

The selection of women to represent their respective countries was carefully weighed and considered by the various governments, who chose outstanding women leaders: Argentina appointed Mrs. Ernestina A. López de Nelson; Colombia, Mrs. María Elena de Hinestrosa; Haiti, Miss Téligny Mathon; Panama, Miss Clara González; El Salvador, Mrs. María Álvarez de Guillén-Rivas, and Venezuela; Mrs. Lucila Luciana de Pérez Díaz.

The Inter-American Commission of Women established offices at the Pan American Union, and in its capacity as a non-political, international organization, invited the cooperation of all groups in the United States and in the Latin American countries.

Senator BIBLE. It's a particular pleasure for me to introduce our next witness, a fine young woman from Nevada. She was the third woman to be elected the student body president of the University of Nevada, Reno, and did an excellent job during her tenure there. Ms. Frankie Sue Del Papa.

Frankie Sue has been working in my office for the past 3 years. She will take the Nevada Bar in a short period of time, successfully, I hope; and she will become associated with a very fine Federal judge in Reno, as his law clerk.

Frankie Sue, it's good to see you.

Ms. DEL PAPA. Thank you Senator.

Senator BIBLE. You may proceed.

Ms. DEL PAPA. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF FRANKIE SUE DEL PAPA

Ms. DEL PAPA. It's an honor and a privilege to appear before you today to express my views on S. 3188.

Previous Senate committees have not always been so thoughtful of this neighboring historic house. In 1957, the Senate Public Works Committee went so far as to vote to take over all the remaining land in the block bounded by First, Second, and C Streets, and Constitution Avenue NE., including the Sewall-Belmont House. After a 14-month battle with the occupant, the National Woman's Party, and others interested in the preservation of historical sites, the Senate voted to expand the Capitol grounds without taking over the Sewall-Belmont House, one of our Capital's oldest buildings.

It is fortunate that then, as now, some farsighted Senators sought to preserve for posterity this symbol of, and monument to the women's rights movement.

The women's rights movement has not been represented or recognized by a monument or historic site. Especially, at this time, with the coming Bicentennial celebration and the passage of the equal rights amendment, it would be very appropriate to establish this historic site close to our Nation's heart, restore it, and maintain it as a visiting place for all Americans.

It is fitting that it might also serve as a landmark to Alice Paul, as she was the most significant figure in the final phase of the struggle for a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. A dynamic leader who has devoted her life to the causes of equal rights and justice for all. The legislation would provide a living monument to those causes for which she worked so long and so hard, and a living monument to all women in recognition of their role in our Nation's history.

Some people are unaware that there was ever a time when women could not vote, or earn their livelihood, go to college, or choose a profession. They do not know what was involved in reaching these goals which are now taken for granted. History has been unfair with its but occasional footnotes about the long struggles for such rights. Such struggles are part of our heritage and worthy of our scrutiny, because knowing and understanding the social forces in such struggles can help us cope with today's problems.

As a national historic site, the house, its history, and memorabilia of the women's rights movement would be recognized as a special part of America's heritage. It possesses significance worthy of the Department of the Interior's commemoration.

Events have occurred there which have made a significant contribution to, and are identified prominently with, our broad cultural and political history.

The site is associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of our Nation.

I encourage your favorable response though because more importantly the House is associated with a great idea, or perhaps better phrased, as an ideal, that is, that all persons were created equal and should have equal rights and responsibilities under the law.

Senator BIBLE. This is a splendid statement and I compliment you on it. I'm sure your mother is mighty proud.

Thank you very much, Frankie Sue.

Ms. DEL PAPA. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Are there any further witnesses?

One more witness. Please come forward and identify yourself for the record, please.

Ms. MEEHAN. Senator Bible, I thank you.

STATEMENT OF SUSAN MEEHAN, REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Ms. MEEHAN. I'm Susan Meehan and I'm representing the National Legislative Office of N.O.W., the National Organization for Women.

I have only five paragraphs worth.

Senator BIBLE. I'm in no hurry. It's nice here.

I've never had such a captive audience. You go right ahead.

Ms. MEEHAN. N.O.W. is the national civil rights organization made up of both women and men working to bring women of all races into the mainstream of American life. Founded in 1956, it is the oldest and largest feminist organization with almost 800 chapters, and is represented in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the Canal Zone, plus chapters of American citizens in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Paris, and Belgium.

The Washington chapter, to which I belong, is the largest in the country with over 600 members.

And, a personal note, I will also be speaking as a candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for the city council in ward 2, in which, happily, the Sewall-Belmont House is located.

As a historical preservationist, I'm particularly delighted to be speaking in favor.

Senator BIBLE. When do you have your primary?

Ms. MEEHAN. September 10.

Senator BIBLE. This is a good forum to make a political speech. Go ahead.

Ms. MEEHAN. I'm also a historical preservationist and I speak as one who has just come from a major victory in the DuPont Circle area, you may have read about that in the paper.

Senator BIBLE. I did.

MS. MEEHAN. Again, on a personal note, I noticed upon reading the deed in which Mrs. Belmont turned the building over to the National Woman's Party, Mrs. Belmont was a resident of my hometown, Sands Point, N.Y.

So, it gives me special pleasure to be supporting the efforts of my neighbor of a previous era to bring to the men, women, and children of this and future eras the benefit of wisdom and understanding which the authorization of this building as a historic site will help bring about. The education of our children, and the indoctrination of our citizens is almost always omitted from the important role that women have played in our country's history.

Very little is taught about women in our history books, other than token mentions of Betsy Ross and the five pointed stars, Dolly Madison and her ice cream.

Little attention has been given to the reasons behind this support of women in American history, and almost no attention has been given to those women pioneers who have sought to change this unfair deminiation of women's capabilities.

If women, active in the suffrage movement, are known to students at all, it is usually in a deprecating way. Lucretia Bloomer is remembered for her pants and not for the difficult, and important and unrewarding work she toiled at for the benefit of American woman-kind.

So, it's particularly gratifying to be able to support a bill which will help Americans, men and women both, boys and girls, to discover their roots.

With this bill, the Belmont House will become an important tourist attraction in the Capitol and will provide a unique setting for residents and visitors alike to learn what the status of women-kind has been in the United States and how the battle was fought and is still being fought to improve womenkind's lot, and to give her the equality of opportunity that is rightly hers.

This can both be done in a setting which conveys tangibly the heritage of struggle. The Belmont House is just such a setting and is, as has been mentioned, the only possible site, since all previous headquarters of women's movements have been destroyed.

The dignity and value of that struggle are reflected in memorabilia uniquely available in the Belmont House, that show the earnestness, the deep seriousness of women's search for their rights, and they will continue the development until such day in the future in which women are one-half of a fully equal partnership of the sexes.

This building will show what has been done, but can also point the way to what yet needs to be done.

I remember my mother telling me that my grandmother was one of the first students at Radcliff, studying under Prof. William James. She was allowed to sit in the rear of the same classroom as the Harvard men taking the course, but she was not allowed to speak in class. As Professor James said, a redheaded woman speaking in class would be too much of a distraction to his male students.

I remember being asked by my father 15 years ago in college, why I was majoring in political science when women couldn't do anything with it. I hope that I'm proving him wrong today, as the other women

who have gone before me and who have worked in this women's party, have also.

There needs, also, to be a depository, assuring, if you will, where women and men can go and learn about the magnificent women who have worked to make this a more truly participatory society, and through this to learn about our society itself.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. That's a very fine statement. I appreciate it. Good luck to you in your political campaign.

Unless there are other witnesses, the hearing stands adjourned. I hope the bill will be ready for consideration by our full committee, which I will be chairing on Monday. I hope we can get to the item on the agenda. I hope all you men in the audience have been properly indoctrinated to take home either a bouquet of flowers or a nice box of candy for the woman in your life.

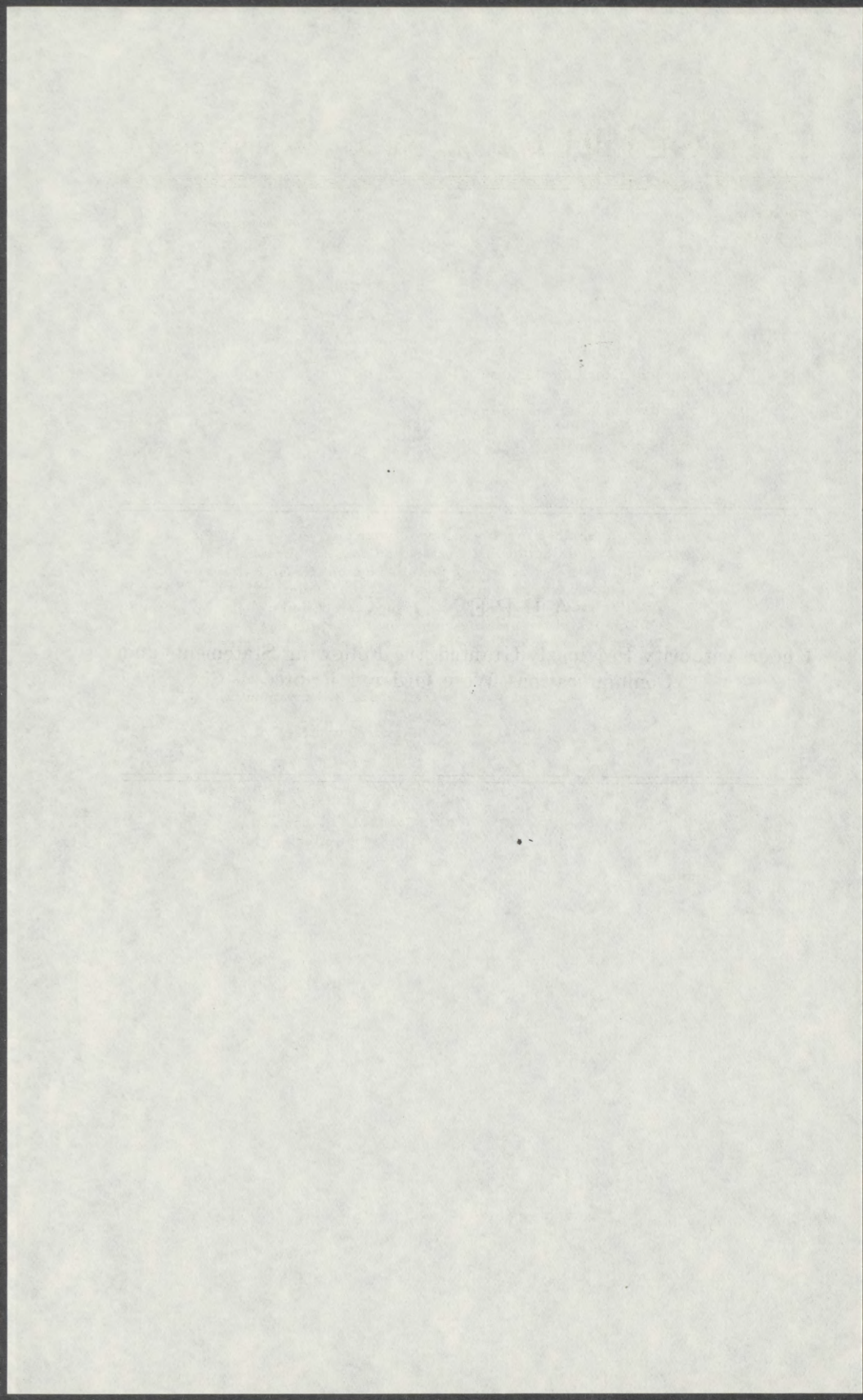
I hope Jim Beirne, who is a bashful, shy, eligible bachelor hasn't gotten scared off by what you've said.

With that, we'll stand in adjournment.

[Whereupon, at 3:10 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

Under Authority Previously Granted, the Following Statements and
Communications Were Ordered Printed



CAPITOL HILL *Restoration Society* • WASHINGTON, D. C.

"The Hill is the
Place to Live"

Address reply to:

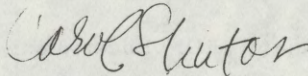
May 30, 1974

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Chairman
Committee on Interior and Insular
Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am happy to enclose for the record of your hearing on S. 3188, a statement of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society in support of this legislation "To establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site, and for other purposes". At the request of Subcommittee staff, the Society has agreed not to make an oral presentation at the hearing tomorrow. You will understand, of course, the absence of a representative in no way indicates that we do not fully support the objectives of S. 3188. The Restoration Society sincerely appreciates this opportunity to express its views on a matter of such importance to the Capitol Hill community.

Sincerely yours,



Carol M. C. Santos
President-Elect

Enclosure

STATEMENT OF CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY ON
S. 3188, "TO ESTABLISH THE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION
MAY 31, 1974

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society, a 1200-member community organization devoted to the preservation of an architectural heritage and amenities of urban life on Capitol Hill in Washington, appreciates the Committee's invitation to testify at this meeting.

As the immediate neighbors of Sewell-Belmont House, we recognize its significance as an historic site, and can attest to the importance of its being preserved. The Sewell-Belmont House is more than a living monument to the great works of Alice Paul and her National Woman's Party, it is a handsome structure of recognized national significance which lends distinction to the historic fabric of Capitol Hill. Located only a short distance from the Capitol at 144 Constitution Avenue, N. E., the house itself has a history which reflects the development of our capital city. Its oldest elements were built by Robert Sewell in 1800 on land which had been granted to the second Lord Baltimore by King Charles of England. In their book, Historic Houses of George-Town and Washington City, Eberlein and Hubbard describe the Belmont House as "one of the oldest, if not the oldest house in the neighborhood of Capitol Hill".

Though rented to Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin during the period 1801-1813, the Sewell-Belmont House was owned by the descendents of Robert Sewell until sold in 1922 to Senator Porter H. Dale of Vermont. Senator Dale sold the property to the National Woman's Party in 1929, when it was named for Alva Belmont, who had helped to purchase the Party's previous headquarters.

Like other properties which have survived as remnants of another era, this fine old house has attracted the sporadic attention of those who would remove or destroy it to "improve" the cityscape. It ought to be preserved. You will hear today from others more expert than we who can argue most convincingly the importance of preserving our architectural heritage. The dramatic restoration of residential properties on Capitol Hill speaks for itself. We who live here value that element of history which sets this community apart. The Sewell-Belmont House contributes to that ambiance and is, for this reason alone, worthy of your consideration.

We are not unmindful that the Sewell-Belmont House is a landmark equally important to the social history of the United States. As headquarters of the National Woman's Party since 1929, it has served as the rallying point for an organization which has espoused Women's Rights since 1913. Instrumental in obtaining passage of the

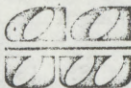
Nineteenth Amendment, the National Woman's Party is today a leading proponent of that further amendment which would guarantee equal rights to women in every respect. The work of Alice Paul's successors is carried on today amidst mementos of her early campaigns. The importance of this building, and the movement of which it is symbolic, have won recognition on the National Register of Historic Places. Only last month, the Secretary of the Interior's Advisory Board on National Parks, Buildings, and Monuments adjudged the Sewell-Belmont House to be "nationally significant in illustrating the history of the United States", and recommended that it be declared eligible for designation as a National Historic Landmark.

S. 3188 would designate this property as the "Sewall-Belmont (sic) National Historic Site", and would authorize the Secretary of the Interior "to assist in the preservation and interpretation of such house". The Restoration Society wholeheartedly endorses the objectives of this legislation, and urges the prompt enactment of a bill which would most appropriately meet those objectives. The building is in apparent need of extensive restoration, well beyond the means of the National Woman's Party. We believe, too, that the public should have reasonable access, in order that it might better appreciate the character of this building and the cause advanced by Alice Paul.

We defer to the judgment of this Subcommittee on the merits of specific provisions in S. 3188. The Restoration Society is confident that the Congress will act, as Senator Jackson has urged, to recognize "the unique status of this House in the history of women's rights (and) the history of the property itself".

* * * * *

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN



2401 VIRGINIA AVE., N.W. / WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037

Phone 202/785-7700

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF S.3188
THE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Submitted to
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation
of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

June 17, 1974

by
Dr. Deborah P. Wolfe
Association Legislative Program Committee Chairman
on behalf of
The American Association of University Women

The American Association of University Women, begun in 1882 and then known as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, was created out of a concern for human dignity, improvement in the status of women and their intellectual growth. Since 1882 the membership of the Association has grown from fewer than 100 members to over 180,000 members today. As our numbers have increased, so has our spirit of dedication to the principles on which the Association was founded. Our basic concerns for dignity and improvement in the status of women are shared by all women's organizations today, not the least of which is the National Women's Party. This organization, begun in 1913, has always been an outspoken proponent of women's rights, and played a major role in obtaining passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution which grants equal suffrage. Today the National Women's Party is one of the foremost leaders in the movement to obtain passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

The National Women's Party has the unique status of being the only national women's organization still housed in the headquarters it has maintained and occupied almost from its inception. The fact that there is no other building standing today which is a part of the history of a permanent women's movement makes the headquarters of the National Women's Party -- the Sewall-Belmont House -- a building of major historic significance.

The American Association of University Women, recognizing the significance and importance of the Sewall-Belmont House, strongly supports the enactment of legislation which would make this House a National Historic Site and which would provide at least a portion of the essential funds for its restoration and preservation. This action would ensure the continued existence of the Sewall-Belmont House for the perpetuation of the work of the National Women's Party and for appreciation by and enrichment of the general public. Enactment of S.3188 would breathe new life into an historic building sadly in need of repair and at the same time would allow the general public greater access than it has thus far enjoyed to tangible proof that the women's movement has roots firmly planted in a background of dignity, dedication, intelligence and perseverance.

The American Association of University Women, further recognizing the fact that a feasibility study may need to be conducted by the governmental authority to be charged with the responsibility of restoring and interpreting the Sewall-Belmont House, endorses the conduct of such a study if it will be done within a time-frame satisfactory to all the principals involved.

National Trust for Historic Preservation

740-748 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.

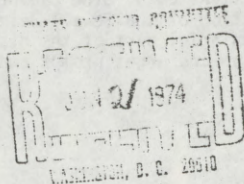
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

(202) 382-3304



June 19, 1974

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Chairman
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States is pleased to respond to your request for our views concerning S. 3188, a bill "To establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site".

The National Trust was chartered by the Congress in 1949 to further the national preservation policy enunciated in the Historic Sites Act of 1935, to facilitate public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings and objects of national significance or interest and to provide a national trust to acquire such properties significant in American history and culture and preserve and administer them for public benefit. Today, the National Trust has over 50,000 individual members and over 1,500 member organizations throughout the country.

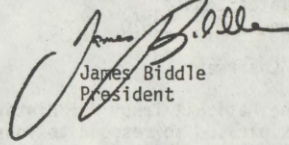
The National Trust's concern for the preservation of the Sewall-Belmont House dates back almost twenty years. Prospects for the preservation of the structure have, at times, during the last two decades appeared very bleak indeed. We welcome S. 3188 as a means of insuring the preservation of the Sewall-Belmont House for future generations to use and enjoy.

The Sewall-Belmont House represents a strong physical reminder of the heritage of the country and of the women's rights movement. Historically, the house is identified with the earliest history of the city of Washington and was a home for a number of distinguished owners and occupants including Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury (1801 to 1813). The house was severely damaged in a fire at the time of the burning of Washington by the British during the War of 1812 and was subsequently rebuilt. It's appearance today, although different from its original state, portrays the various events and owners that have influenced its development.

The physical structure together with the artifacts that are displayed in the house provide a meaningful lesson in American history for those who visit the house. The Sewall-Belmont House has been designated a Category II Landmark in the District of Columbia by the Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital, these are defined as "landmarks of importance which contribute significantly to the cultural heritage of visual beauty and interest of the District of Columbia and its environs and which should be preserved or restored, if possible."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation believes that the enactment of S. 3188 can provide the means to insure the preservation of the Sewall-Belmont House and its interpretation as a meaningful part of the history of the District of Columbia and the nation and urges prompt and favorable action.

Sincerely,



James Biddle
President

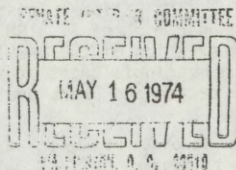
Women's Rights Project *Belen*
 American Civil Liberties Union

22 East 40th Street

New York, New York 10016

(212) 725-1222

May
14th
1974



Hon. Henry Jackson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Re: S. 3188

Dear Senator Jackson,

Thank you for your introduction of the referenced bill, and for your support of the feminist movement. A monument to the women's rights movement is of immense symbolic significance, and your recognition of that fact is most gratifying.

It was a pleasure meeting you on May 5th on the occasion of your receipt of the award of the League for Industrial Democracy. Both Ed Rothstein and I (who were to have transported you from the airport and back) were disappointed that we did not have the opportunity to spend more time with you. We certainly hope that the occasion arises in the future for us to be of service to you.

Any information, input or aid that this office can render on issues of women's rights and sex equality we shall certainly be most pleased to provide.

Very truly yours,

Kathleen Peratis

cc: Edward Rothstein
New York City Director
Frontlash

Brenda Feigen Fasteau, Kathleen Peratis, Directors • Elissa Kräuss, Administrative Assistant • Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Of Counsel • Reproductive Freedom Project: Judith M. Mears, Director • American Civil Liberties Union: Edward J. Ennis, Chairman, Board of Directors • Ramsey Clark, Chairman, National Advisory Council • Aryeh Neier, Executive Director.

American Nurses' Association, Inc.

2420 Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64108

(816) 474-5720

Rosamond C. Gabrielson, M.A., R.N.
President

Eileen M. Jacobi, Ed.D., R.N.
Executive Director

Washington Office:
1030 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 2000
(202) 296-8010

May 30, 1974

The Honorable Henry M. Jackson
U. S. Senate
137 Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Jackson:

The American Nurses' Association would like to strongly endorse S. 3188, to establish the Sewall-Belmont House as a national historic site.

ANA is a supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment and other legislation in the interests of the welfare of women, and we believe it would be highly appropriate that this house associated with the women's movement be accorded this national recognition. As you know, Sewall-Belmont is headquarters of the National Woman's Party and contains many items of historic significance to suffrage activities and women's rights. As such, it is, of course, a site of importance to the entire country and should be preserved and maintained for the benefit of all Americans.

The house has great historic value in addition to its significance in the women's movement. It is recorded as one of the oldest, if not the oldest house on Capitol Hill and was used by United States forces resisting the advance of British troops when they marched on the Capitol in 1814.

The house and grounds are lovely and of considerable architectural interest, and they provide an attractive counterpoint to the larger formal buildings on Capitol Hill.

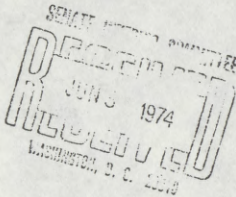
We congratulate you for the concern and interest that you have shown in introducing this bill to preserve the Sewall-Belmont House.

Again we would like to express our strong support for this legislation. We ask that this letter be made a part of the record.

Sincerely,

Rosamond C. Gabrielson

Rosamond C. Gabrielson, M.A., R.N.
President



RCG:md

PREPARED STATEMENT OF FLORA CRATER, ACTING STATE COORDINATOR,
VIRGINIA WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS, FALLS CHURCH, VA.

Virginia women do support and urge the establishment of the Sewall-Belmont House as a National Historic Site. The Virginia Women's Political Caucus is especially pleased to support this project since we recognize so fully its importance as it has become identified with the noble fights of many dedicated women for their right to vote and the Equal Rights Amendment.

With the establishment of this site there will be provided a physical reminder and testament of the efforts of American women for their constitutional rights so that women from all of the United States and countries all over the world will know these facts. Its proximity to the Capitol and the new Senate Office Building is a fit and deserving commemoration of the work these women have achieved and are achieving in behalf of over half of our population.

The National Woman's Party which so faithfully kept up the fight for women's equal rights after the winning of the vote when many women assumed the fight for equality was over is to be commended highly for seeking the establishment of this headquarters for the women's movement to its proper place in history. Mrs. Elizabeth L. Chittick, National Chairman correctly points out that "all previous headquarters of women's movements have been destroyed."

This site has to many women become a reminder of past and future struggle for women's equality. It was a revelation to many of us new to the women's movement to discover that the Alice Paul that we read about was that great woman leader during the fight for the right to vote—was also the woman that answered the phone when we called the National Woman's Party—still working and fighting. I remember saying to her, "Why didn't you tell us you needed help?"

As a personal note and as an example of the significance of places in people's minds I remember the National Woman's Party as that big house around the block from my uncle's house—the home of Theodore L. Trimmer, 113 C Street, N. E. This house was destroyed to make room for the new Senate Office Building. What I remembered best from this building were the two signs on the two brick pillars—one said National Woman's Party—the other said World Woman's Party. I hope the restoration will put these words back as evidence of the broad vision of those fighting women.

Virginia women urge the establishment of the Sewall-Belmont House as an historic site for the tribute it will give to the past and for the future of the continuing fight for the civil, political and historic equality of women.

