



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

September 8, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAVE BIEGING *DB*
SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS -- LANDMARK CENTER
DEDICATION

Event

Dedication of Landmark Center
(old federal building)
St. Paul, Minnesota

Saturday, September 9, 1978
10:00 AM

Your remarks are expected to last for 10 minutes. You will be cutting a ribbon to open the "Landmark Center" which is the new name of the old castle-like federal building across from Rice Park in downtown St. Paul. The building was surplused by GSA to the city of St. Paul in 1972. It later became the property of its present owner, Ramsey County, which continues to pay for its maintenance. It is being restored and will be operated by a specially-created non-profit corporation called Minnesota Landmarks, Inc.

The restoration project is a \$7.7 million job, with some 88% of the funds coming from private sources (Hill and Bush Foundations and private individuals). The state has given \$450,000 and about \$400,000 has come from the federal government, with an additional \$100,000 grant still pending at Interior. The city and county have contributed as well.

Several cultural groups will have their offices in the building, courtrooms will be used for concerts and rehearsals, and art exhibits will be shown in public areas. Shops and restaurants will be included, as will a branch post office.

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Personalities

Robert "Robbie" Ridder will be master of ceremonies. You will be introduced by Ramsey County Board Chairman Warren Schaber, since the county owns the building (Schaber is running for re-election; he is not DFL-endorsed -- there is no endorsed candidate in his district).

The St. Paul Scouts drum and bugle corps will provide music and you may want to recognize them.

Dignitaries not on the platform will include:

Congressman Don Fraser
Congressman Bruce Vento
Mayor George Latimer
Robert Garvey, Executive Director, Advisory
Council on Historic Preservation
(federal -- from Washington)
Dr. David Lanegren, President, Minnesota Landmarks, Inc.
Mrs. Betty Musser, Chairman, Building Committee
(the key figure locally)

LANDMARK CENTER DEDICATION
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 9, 1978

INTRODUCTION AND RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES

THANK YOU, WARREN (SCHABER), FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION. YOU
READ IT JUST THE WAY MY STAFF WROTE IT.

I'M PLEASED TO BE HERE WITH YOU AND ROBERT RIDDER, WITH --
-- ST. PAUL'S OUTSTANDING CONGRESSMAN, BRUCE VENTO ...

-- WITH HIS CAPABLE COLLEAGUE FROM MINNEAPOLIS, MY FRIEND
DON FRASER ...

-- WITH MAYOR GEORGE LATIMER, WHO REALLY HAS ST. PAUL ON
THE GO ...

-- WITH BETTY MUSSER, WHO HAS BEEN SUCH A GUIDING LIGHT FOR
THIS PROJECT ...

-- AND WITH SO MANY OF YOU WHO HAVE MADE THIS DAY POSSIBLE.

IF YOU ARE WONDERING WHY I AM HERE FOR THIS DEDICATION CEREMONY,
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'M HERE FOR THREE REASONS. FIRST, BECAUSE
I CARE SO MUCH ABOUT BRUCE VENTO, GEORGE LATIMER, AND THE CITY OF
ST. PAUL; SECOND, BECAUSE OF THIS MARVELOUS BUILDING AND THE
COMMENDABLE EFFORT SO MANY HAVE MADE TO RESTORE IT; AND MOST
IMPORTANT, I'M HERE BECAUSE MY MOTHER-IN-LAW, MRS. MAX ADAMS, IS A
GREAT SUPPORTER OF MINNESOTA LANDMARKS -- AND SHE TOLD ME I'D
DARN WELL BETTER SHOW UP.

PERSONAL INTEREST -- ART, ARCHITECTURE AND MINNESOTA HISTORY

JOAN AND I ARE BOTH THRILLED TO BE HERE. SHE KNOWS MORE ABOUT ART AND ARCHITECTURE THAN I WOULD EVER HOPE TO LEARN. I ALWAYS SAY THAT I MAY NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT ART, BUT JOAN TELLS ME WHAT I LIKE. BUT I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A BUFF ON MINNESOTA HISTORY. IN FACT, I TREASURE THE SET OF WILLIAM FOLWELL'S FOUR-VOLUME TREATISE ON THE SHELF IN MY WHITE HOUSE OFFICE. AND I CAN'T HELP BUT BE MOVED AND EXCITED BY THE RESTORATION OF A STRUCTURE SO RICH IN THE HISTORY OF OUR STATE.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE

I KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE WORKED TO MAKE THIS LANDMARK CENTER A REALITY --

- RAMSEY COUNTY;
- THE CITY OF ST. PAUL;
- THE ST. PAUL-RAMSEY ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL;
- THE MINNESOTA LANDMARKS BOARD, THE BUILDING COMMITTEE AND STAFF;
- OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND MANY PRIVATE CITIZENS.

ALL OF YOU DESERVE THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS FOR A COOPERATIVE EFFORT WHICH WILL ENRICH THE LIFE OF THIS COMMUNITY IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOAL OF MINNESOTA LANDMARKS IS TO CREATE "A WORK OF ART SERVING PEOPLE". WALKING INTO THIS MAGNIFICENT BUILDING, SEEING THE OBVIOUS CARE WHICH HAS GONE INTO ITS RESTORATION, AND -- ESPECIALLY -- SEEING SO MANY PEOPLE HERE THIS MORNING WHO CARE ABOUT THIS PROJECT ... THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED.

WHAT WILL BE SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS CENTER IS THAT IT WILL NOT BE JUST A MONUMENT OR A MUSEUM. IT WILL BE A PLACE HERE IN THE HEART OF ST. PAUL FOR PEOPLE TO VISIT IN THEIR DAILY ACTIVITIES -- WITH SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS, CONCERTS AND CLASSES, OFFICES AND EXHIBITS OF EVERY KIND. IT WILL BRING PEOPLE AND CULTURE TOGETHER AS A PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

HISTORY OF BUILDING

AND THAT IS ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE IN THIS GREAT BUILDING. SOMEONE ONCE SAID THAT HISTORY IS THE COMMON MEMORY OF A PEOPLE. AND TO CREATE THIS CULTURAL CENTER IN SUCH AN HISTORIC PLACE IS DOUBLY VALUABLE.

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY THIS BUILDING WAS THE SYMBOL OF FEDERAL PRESENCE FOR THE WHOLE REGION. THIS WAS THE HEAD OF NAVIGATION AND RAIL TRANSPORT, AND IT WAS IN THIS BUILDING THAT IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS WERE HELD WHEN THOUSANDS OF OUR ANCESTORS CAME TO SETTLE OR MOVE ON TO THE TOWNS AND FARMS BEYOND. THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WENT OFF TO WAR FROM THIS BUILDING. AND THEY RECEIVED A WONDERFUL NEW SERVICE HERE -- FREE HOME DELIVERY OF THEIR MAIL -- FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM THIS BUILDING.

MANY FAMOUS MINNESOTANS HAVE WORKED WITHIN THESE WALLS -- FRANK B. KELLOGG, HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, AND MANY OTHER NAMES YOU WOULD RECOGNIZE.

BOTH TRUMAN AND EISENHOWER CAMPAIGNED FOR PRESIDENT HERE. I'M TOLD THEY HAD TO CLIMB OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW TO DELIVER THEIR SPEECHES FROM THE BALCONY OVER 5TH STREET. I MIGHT SAY THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN I HAVE HAD TO CRAWL OUT THE WINDOW AFTER MY SPEECHES.

SOME OF YOU MAY NOT KNOW THAT THIS PLACE WAS AN HISTORIC SITE EVEN BEFORE THE FEDERAL BUILDING WAS BUILT. IN THE 1850'S, THE OLD ST. PAUL CITY HALL WAS BUILT ON THIS BLOCK, AS WELL AS THE BALDWIN SCHOOL. THAT SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED BY REVEREND EDWARD DUFFIELD NEILL AND WAS THE FORERUNNER OF MACALASTER COLLEGE. JOAN AND I MET AT MACALESTER, SO I WILL ALWAYS BE THANKFUL TO REVEREND NEILL.

CONCLUSION

MERELY TO RESTORE A PLACE OF PHYSICAL BEAUTY, A PLACE SO RICH IN HISTORY, WOULD IN ITSELF BE A COMMENDABLE UNDERTAKING. BUT TO MAKE IT A CENTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS A STROKE OF GENIUS. THE LANDMARK CENTER WILL BE VIBRANT AND ALIVE, WITH A WHOLE RANGE OF PUBLIC ACTIVITY. IT WILL BE A SYMBOL OF THIS GREAT COMMUNITY. AND IT WILL BE A MODEL FOR THE REST OF THE NATION OF WHAT WE CAN DO TO PRESERVE THE BEST OF OUR PAST IN A WAY WHICH ENHANCES OUR FUTURE. SO I AM VERY PLEASED TO JOIN IN THIS DEDICATION, TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THIS WONDERFUL SUCCESS STORY, AND TO WISH ALL MY FELLOW MINNESOTANS WELL AS THEY BEGIN TO USE THIS FACILITY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



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