

→ willing to talk.

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someone else
retired
Curators - Edna May
in the SGP
Smithsonian

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

* deal determined
* well-connected

May 15, 1997

DPC
POTUS

20 PM 1:49

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are respectfully writing to ask you to issue an Executive Order that would create a President's Task Force to establish a National Museum of Women's History.

understand, up-
ner - need to
comm.

We will
look at it
closely.

The National Museum of Women's History project (NMWH) was created to celebrate the rich culture and heritage of women, and to ensure that this heritage is restored to the mainstream culture of our nation. As you may know, the NMWH is a bipartisan, nonprofit, educational institution that raised both public awareness and the congressionally required money to move the "Portrait Monument" to the Capitol Rotunda.

Americans from every corner of our country join tourists from around the globe to visit Washington, DC for a rich history lesson. What a gift it would be for them to learn about the heritage and contributions women have made to every aspect of our civilization. Supporting the National Museum of Women's History by Executive Order would make clear your Administration's intention to honor women's past achievements, and to support and encourage their continuing contributions to our nation.

We ask that you help women take an important step forward by issuing an Executive Order to establish a President's Task Force dedicated to a museum of women's history. The Task Force's objective would be to identify a federal site in Washington, DC, gain legislative authorization of the site, identify private funds for construction and renovation costs, and develop plans to privately fund yearly operating costs.

→ undertake it in good faith.
→ data base

Neutral -

IMS -

We fully support the creation of a National Museum of Women's History.
The time to officially commemorate the stories and struggles of American heroines
is long overdue. We hope that you will agree to support this project. Thank you
very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Olympia Snow
Thad Cochran

DAVE HAZEL

Angie L. Landwehr
Ed Kennedy

Tom Harkin

Carol Browder Brown

J. Wilson

Susan Collins

Patty Murray

Barack Obama

Jane Christman

Garry Keil

Barbara Boxer

John Warner

Asst

1942.

Jim Jeffords
Ted Stevens

Paul H. Wellstone
Ron Wyden

Nicole Rabner
+ wehner

Nicole -
Could you draft
a response? Thanks
Elean

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mark

357-1350

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Sen. Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) and others.

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1997

Nicole

Attached please find 1) pertinent information on the possible formation of a Presidential Joint Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH); and 2) information on the ongoing political debate regarding support for the suffrage statue rededication on June 26.

The opposition is spearheaded by C. Dolores Tucker and they are planning a protest outside the event. I would hope that we could get both sides to the table here at the White House late this week to discuss their concerns, and hopefully facilitate a compromise to diffuse this situation. This issue is certainly divided down racial lines, and we have an incredible opportunity to intervene and mediate a solution.

Sandra

6-7310



Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP
cc: Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP, Cheryl M. Carter/WHO/EOP, Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP, Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP
Subject: Re: POTUS/FLOTUS message request for Suffrage Event 

Maria -- speaking of the politics -- I just got a call from Gayle Ravnitzky in Rep. Carol Maloney's office stressing the need for this message of support from the President. They are hoping that the reason none of the principals can attend the rededication ceremony is simply scheduling conflicts and NOT because of CD Tucker or any loss of support for the importance of the event or the NMWH by the President. Gayle reminded me that when Rep. Maloney participated in the Congressional Women's Caucus meeting with the POTUS and VPOTUS a few months ago that she brought up the idea of the President forming a joint task force on the National Museum of Women's History -- and he said it was a GREAT idea. Now, they're wanting to know: 1) if in fact the President is still supporting this idea,

2) how far along are we in the process of getting it formed, and 3) if there could be a mention of this in his letter to be ready at the rededication. Gayle was also wondering why the White House (the President) has NOT even responded to the letter to the President signed by 46 members of Congress urging the formation of this task force.

I think Congresswoman Maloney may need to get a call from you or another senior person regarding the following:

- 1) The continued support of the Administration for the formation of a Presidential Joint Task Force on the NMWH and the Suffrage Statue (and why we will have no senior Administration representation at the rededication event);
- 2) Where we are on the task force process (it's in General Counsel's hands under review right now - with Rob Weiner -- as of Monday);
- 3) The prospect of a Presidential message to be read aloud at the Rededication ceremony 6/26 and the possibility its mentioning the possible formation of the task force; and
- 4) The prospect of a written response from the President to the letter of wide support from the 46 House Representatives for the formation of a Presidential Task Force on the NMWH.

Please advise.

**NEED FOR PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY (NMWH)**

- The National Museum of Women's History will be a "bricks and mortar" legacy for people to point to twenty years from now and say, "This is what President Clinton did for women."
- The founding of NMWH will span the next eight years, providing opportunities not only for the President but the Vice President to demonstrate commitment and support to their female constituency.
- NMWH is a non-profit, grass roots institution dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich and diverse heritage of *all* women. Major women's groups involved and supporting NMWH range from the Democratic Women's Leadership Forum and the National Federation of Republican Women to the League of Women Voters and the National Council of Negro Women. A Presidential Task Force or Committee is needed as a vehicle to obtain a federal site in Washington, D.C., and to attract prominent citizens capable of the fundraising necessary to be privately funded thereafter.
- The authorizing legislation to create the task force/commission is the Federal Advisory Commission Act (Table 1, Public Laws and Legislative History, Final Volume). See the attached copy of Public Law 96-388 establishing the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.
- NMWH recommends a 25-member task force comprised primarily of private citizens and including representatives from the Administration and Congress. Due to budget constraints that did not exist at the formation of the Holocaust Council, NMWH recommends members serve on a voluntary basis. The Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, or GSA could take administrative responsibility for the task force.
- A national institution specifically dedicated to the heritage of women does not exist. Although the Smithsonian Institution sponsors some related programs, it has only two permanent exhibits on women's history. Budget cuts are making it more difficult to manage existing programs at the Smithsonian. Adding an endeavor of this magnitude is infeasible.
- A national museum of women's history will create an institution giving Americans and foreign visitors the opportunity to learn of the unique cultural legacy, historic grandeur, and contemporary contributions of women worldwide from the dawn of civilization.
- Women have made profound contributions to civilization but, as well documented, they are glossed over or left out of mainstream texts, museums, and public memorials.
- Culture is shaped by what we value, which we express in the ways listed above. Unfortunately, less than two percent of the contents of modern history books explore women's history, less than five percent of the nation's 2,200 National Historical Landmarks are dedicated women, and there are only 40 public outdoor statues of women.

- At present, history reflects and values mainly male experiences and contributions.
- This exclusion and devaluation of what philosophers call "the feminine" has severely torn the fabric of our culture. It is manifested in symptoms of widespread violence and poverty - a general *dis-ease* of culture. However, the brunt of this disease is suffered by women and girls throughout the world.
- The pressure to solve these problems is coming from every segment of society. Although females bear more of the negative consequences of our dysfunctional culture, males are also harmed. Leaders and scholars everywhere are looking for ways to solve this crisis ranging from women's shelters, to legislation on "stalking," to the Presidential event with General Colin Powell on "volunteerism."
- Social scientists and politicians, including President Clinton, have joined forces to discover and implement ways to return to a "civil society." They realize that addressing problems such as welfare, domestic violence, and crime with immediate action (programs, policies) is important but will not cure their underlying causes. To move society toward a better, more equitable and just future, on a lasting basis, our culture must be transformed.
- NMWH will transform culture by restoring the knowledge and respect of women, their contributions and "the feminine." Not only will it change the way men and boys view women and girls, but the way women and girls see themselves.
- Women must begin to see themselves as actors in the past, to gain strength and inspiration for the struggles in the present. Visibility in the past equals empowerment in the present.



Sondra L. Seba

06/04/97 05:36:32 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP
cc: Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP
Subject: Suffrage Statue Rededication Scheduling Request

Marj mentioned you may have some questions on the scheduling request -- so maybe I can be of help in addressing them. One question you might have is why did we include the possible announcement of the Presidential Joint Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH). Minyon and I included that piece for this reason: Joan Wages of the NMWH talked with the President at a WLF event on May 19th about it -- she asked him to create the Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History, saying that it would be a wonderful legacy for him to leave for the women of this country. He said, "Well, let's get to work on it!" He immediately called Craig Smith over to talk w/Joan about the task force. Joan faxed everything related to it to Craig the next day. Minyon called me the next day to tell me that Craig had indeed asked her about it -- she told Craig that she was already working with Joan and me on the whole thing. Therefore, we included that piece in case it is possible to make the announcement on the 26th at the ceremony. I have a call in to Dawn Chirwa (counsel's office) for counsel and procedure on the possible formation of a task force.

FYI--Joan has gone direct to Lucia in the VP's office to ask her to pursue the VP for this event. I've got a call into Lucia to check status.

ALSO, on the C. Dolores front -- Minyon told me that C. was planning a meeting about the statue. Doesn't look good right now for C. to participate in the event, but Minyon is going to talk with her again soon. Minyon will keep me informed, and I you.

Hope this helps!



MEMORANDUM

5 Pages to Follow

To: Sondra Seba
From: Joan Wages
Date: May 21, 1997
Subject: Request to Vice President Gore -- Re: June 26

Attached is the letter that we have sent to Vice President Gore. I asked Lucia Gilliland in the Vice President's office to get the request to his scheduler and that your request will follow. I'll be happy to help you work on the request.

I spoke with the President on Monday evening at a WLF event. I asked him to create the Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) and told him that it would be a wonderful legacy for him to leave to the women of this country. He said, "Well, let's get to work on it." Needless to say, I was pleased. He called Craig Smith over and the next day I faxed Craig all the information on the Museum.

Let me know what I can do to help on the scheduling request for the Vice President.

Thank you immensely for your help!

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

May 21, 1997

The Honorable Albert Gore
Vice President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Vice President Gore:

After a 76-year struggle by women, Congress has unanimously agreed to restore the statue of suffragists Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott to the Capitol Rotunda. Although these courageous and visionary leaders enfranchised 52% of our population, their images and story have been relegated to the Capitol crypt since 1921. Finally, due to the work of the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, which succeeded in raising both public awareness and the congressionally required money for relocation costs, this important historic symbol will be rededicated in the Rotunda on June 26, 1997 at 10:30a.m. The Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, the first project of the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH), is honored to invite you to participate in this historic Rededication Ceremony. Under separate cover, we are also asking Speaker Gingrich and Mrs. Clinton to participate. Others invited to take part include Senator John Warner, Representative Connie Morella, Representative Carolyn Maloney, Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton and Dr. Dorothy Height.

Because of the historical significance of Mott, Stanton, and Anthony and the fact that for the first time in our nation's history our foremothers and forefathers will stand side by side, we feel the Rededication Ceremony would be the perfect occasion for you to announce the formation of a Presidential Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History and the launch of our cyberspace museum. NMWH was incorporated last year as a nonprofit organization and hopes to partner with the government in establishing the physical site of the Museum. The federal government would furnish the site while yearly operating costs would be privately funded - similar to the structure of the National Building Museum and the U.S. Holocaust Museum. (Details in Enclosure 1.)

Throughout our campaign to return the Suffragist Statue to the Capitol Rotunda we have received strong support from women and men across the nation. NMWH also has the full and enthusiastic support of Betsy Myers, former Director of the White House Office on Women's Initiatives and Outreach. The House of Representatives and Senate have made formal requests to the President to form a Presidential Task Force and the Senate is in the process of doing the same.

303 West Glendale Avenue - Alexandria, VA 22301
Tel. (703) 299-0552 - Fax. (703) 299-0557
staser@ix.netcom.com

Statue of Woman
14500 to 2500 b.c.e.

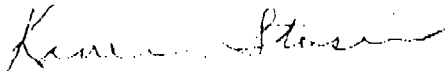
Supporting the National Museum of Women's History would make clear your and the Administration's intention to honor women's past contributions, and to support and encourage their continuing contributions to our nation. NMWH was created in response to American women's deeply compelling desire, in the face of major social and political change, to give voice to their unique perspective on history and in creating a better future. (Enclosure 2.)

We have attached further information and supporting documents. We welcome the opportunity to discuss NMWH with you and your staff and are available to answer any questions.

We hope you will agree to participate in the historic Rededication Ceremony of the Suffragist Statue in the Capitol Rotunda and to announce a Presidential Task Force on NMWH and the cyberspace museum. At a minimum, we hope that you will honor us with your participation at the ceremony and the announcement of the NMWH cyberspace museum, and that we can continue to discuss the Task Force. It could be announced in a future ceremony.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do in support of women and children, and for your vision of a better world.

Most Respectfully,



Karen K. Staser
President, NMWH

cc: Craig Smith
Maria Echeveste
Minyon Moore
Sondra Seba

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

May 9, 1997

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

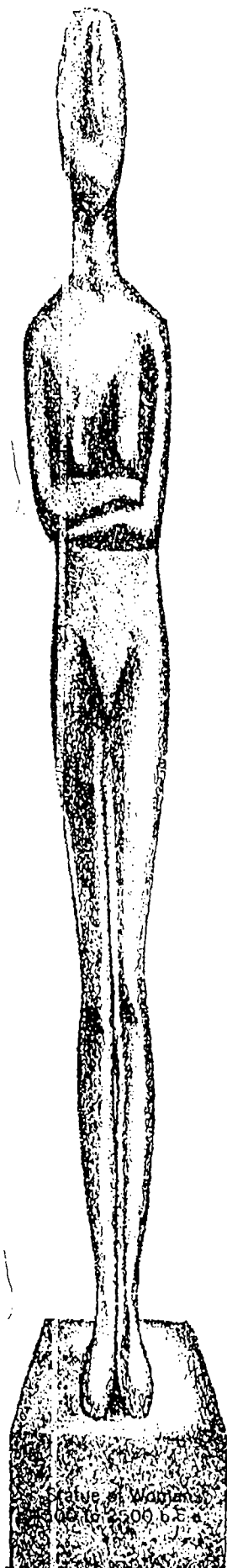
Dear Mrs. Clinton:

After a 76-year struggle by women, Congress has unanimously agreed to restore the statue of suffragists Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott to the Capitol Rotunda. Although these courageous and visionary leaders enfranchised 52% of our population, their images and story have been relegated to the Capitol crypt since 1921. Finally, due to the work of the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, a project of the newly formed National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) in raising both public awareness and the congressionally required money for relocation costs, this important historic symbol will be rededicated in the Rotunda on June 26, 1997 at 10:30a.m. NMWH is honored to invite you to participate in this historic Rededication Ceremony. Under separate cover, we are also asking the President and Speaker Gingrich to participate. Others invited to take part include Senator John Warner, Rep. Connie Morella, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton and Dr. Dorothy Height.

Because of the historical significance of Mott, Stanton, and Anthony and the fact that for the first time in our nation's history our foremothers and forefathers will stand side by side, we feel the Rededication Ceremony would be the perfect occasion for the President to announce the formation of a Presidential Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History. NMWH was incorporated last year as a nonprofit organization and hopes to partner with the government in establishing the physical site of the Museum. The federal government would furnish the site while yearly operating costs would be privately funded - similar to the structure of the National Building Museum and the US Holocaust Museum. (Details in Enclosure 1.) We have forwarded our proposal to the President and hope to have your support as well.

Throughout our campaign to return the Suffragist Statue to the Capitol Rotunda we have received strong support from women and men across the nation. NMWH also has the full and enthusiastic support of Betsy Myers, Director of the White House Office on Women's Initiatives and Outreach. In fact, she calls this project a "gift to the President." The House of Representatives has made a formal request to the President to form a Presidential Task Force and the Senate is in the process of doing the same.

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

March 7, 1997

Mrs. Tipper Gore
Office of the Vice President
Old Executive Office Building, Room 200
Washington, D.C., 20501

Dear Mrs. Gore:

Debbie Johnson told me she spoke to you at the Lifetime Television's Awards Dinner about the formation of the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) and that you requested further information. We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the Museum.

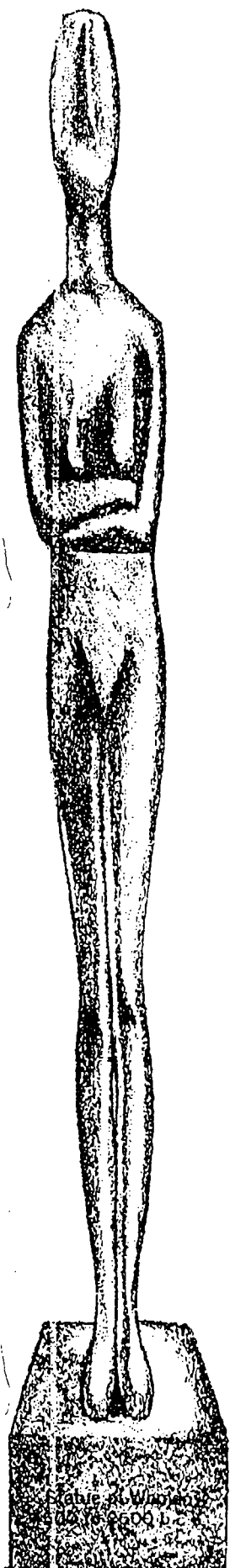
Debbie mentioned that you emphasized the importance of recognizing women's many contributions to civilization in your remarks at the Awards Dinner. This is precisely the mission of NMWH... to preserve and celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of all women and to restore this heritage to mainstream culture. To that end, NMWH was incorporated as a 501(c)3 last year. We immediately launched our first project, the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, and began working with Congress to explore the donation of a federal site in Washington, D.C. to house the Museum.

The President will receive a letter from the U.S. House of Representatives requesting a joint task force on NMWH. The U.S. Senate has initiated a similar letter. (A task force proposal is enclosed.) We request your support in the formation of this joint task force on the National Museum of Women's History.

We have written you previously concerning the NMWH Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign. We engaged in a successful two year campaign which completed a 76-year effort to restore a monument to the "mothers of suffrage" - Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony - to the Capitol Rotunda. We garnered the support of 96 organizations and thousands of individuals, raising both public awareness and \$75,000 for relocation costs. Enclosed is a February 23 op-ed by George Will concerning the Statue, which demonstrates the blindsightedness many still have toward honoring our nation's female heroes. Our response is also enclosed.

A formal rededication ceremony of the Suffragist Statue in the Capitol Rotunda will be held on Thursday, June 26, 1997 at 10:30 a.m. We would be honored for you to participate in this historic event. For the first time in our nation's history the foremothers who led the battle to enfranchise the majority of American

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Page 2 of 2

citizens will stand beside our forefathers. Mrs. Clinton, the Vice President, and the President will be invited to participate as well. As mentioned in the enclosed proposal, the Rotunda Ceremony might be a perfect opportunity to announce an Executive Order forming a joint task force on NMWH.

Mrs. Gore, thank you for your interest in NMWH and for the many things you have done, and continue to do, to support women and children. We look forward to speaking with you about the exciting plans underway at NMWH and your potential involvement.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Staser". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

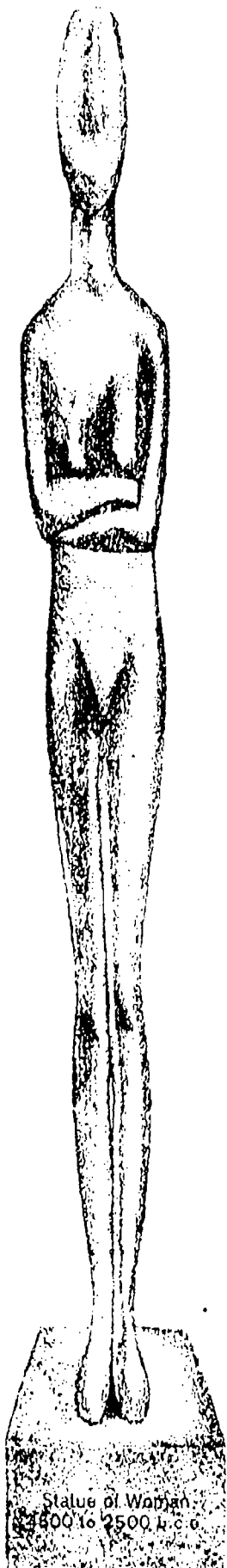
Karen Staser
President, NMWH

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

PROPOSED FORMATION OF PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY (NMWH)

- The upcoming rededication of the monument to Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony in the Capitol Rotunda, on June 26, 1997 at 10:30a.m., would be the perfect opportunity for the President to announce a **Presidential Task Force on NMWH** - a Washington, DC, nonpartisan, educational institution whose mission is to preserve and celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of women and restore this heritage to mainstream culture.
- The task force would consist of 25 members - largely private and corporate sponsors and NMWH Board members, with a representative from the Administration, Senate, and House of Representatives. (Suggested nominations are in progress and include notable citizens such as former First Ladies and other leaders in various fields.) Its mission would be to identify a federal site in Washington, DC, gain legislative authorization of the site, help NMWH identify private funds for construction and renovation costs, help develop plans to privately fund yearly operating costs and make nominations to NMWH standing committees.
- This initiative would reinforce the President's commitment to education, technology, the empowerment of women and children, and the revitalization of Washington, DC. The museum would be a powerful, positive legacy of the Clinton Administration.
- NMWH has hired the international public relations firm of Burson-Marsteller to conduct a **full-scale national publicity campaign** for this historic occasion. 650 seated guests will be in attendance. We are inviting the President, Speaker Gingrich, and the First Lady to participate in the ceremony under separate cover.
- The U.S. House of Representatives sent a formal request to the President to form a **Presidential task force** on the National Museum of Women's History (attached.) It was co-sponsored by U.S. Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Nita Lowey (D-NY), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Connie Morella (R-MD), Marge Roukema (R-NJ), and Nancy Johnson (R-CT.) A similar request has been initiated by the Senate, led by Senators Olympia Snowe, Barbara Boxer, Susan Collins, Diane Feinstein, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Carol Moseley-Braun, and Patty Murray.
- Rep. Carolyn Maloney spoke in person to the President about NMWH and reported that he was "very enthusiastic and supportive."
- The announcement of the joint task force could be made at the Rededication Ceremony in June or on any occasion deemed appropriate by the White House.
- NMWH has a proven track record and broad-based national support. NMWH recently adopted, and succeeded in accomplishing, a 76-year effort to restore the "Portrait Monument" to the Capitol Rotunda. The Museum Raised \$75,000 for relocation costs through a grassroots campaign, and gained the unanimous support of both Houses of Congress, over 80 women's organizations, and major corporations.
- President Carter created a similar council through Executive Order to establish the U.S. Holocaust Memorial and Museum.

303 West Glendale Avenue ~ Alexandria, VA 22304 ENCLOSURE 1
Tel. (703) 299-0552 ~ Fax. (703) 299-0557
staacr@ix.netcom.com



Statue of Woman
1900 to 1950, A.C.C.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

The National Museum of Women's History, Inc. (NMWH)

is a Washington D.C. based, nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich heritage of all women, and restoring this heritage to mainstream culture. **Why is it needed?**

- ◆ 52% of our population is female. There is a deeply felt need among girls and women to learn of their own unique heritage and to see themselves reflected with respect in our culture.
- ◆ Except in isolated women's studies programs, women's profound social, economic, intellectual, spiritual, and scientific contributions are under emphasized. The National Museum of Women in the Arts is dedicated solely to women's achievements in the arts. The National Museum of American History is dedicated to the historical development of mankind. Both these institutions recognize the unique agenda to which NMWH is dedicated and are providing active though not financial support to the project.
- ◆ The historic contributions of women to civilization are missing or misunderstood.
- ◆ Knowledge of one's heritage is critical in developing a personal sense of competence and potential.
- ◆ Lack of understanding and appreciation for women's contributions leads to a lack of understanding, value and respect, and may invite violence or discrimination against females.
- ◆ NMWH will address these needs by:
 1. profiling the specific *achievements* individual women have made in *every* area of human endeavor and
 2. Exploring and celebrating the *contributions* women have made to community and civilization in their many roles as mother, wife, sister, healer, teacher, and leader.

The first project of the NMWH, the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, demonstrates our grass roots support. This national fund raising campaign was initiated with the help of Senator John Warner to raise \$75,000 to restore the Suffragist Statue of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott to the Capitol Rotunda. With modest publicity, there has been a spontaneous national outpouring of support. The Campaign has raised almost \$50,000, more than half coming from small individual donations. We have also received thousands of letters and calls. Interestingly, we have attracted the support of the male population as well. National women's groups such as the National Federation of Republican Women, the National League of Women Voters, Business and Professional Women, U.S.A., and others are helping, as are the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee. Our corporate sponsors to date are listed on the left. The Campaign is growing fast and continues to attract the attention of the national press.

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staser@ix.netcom.com

ENCLOSURE 2

Statue of Woman
4500 to 2500 B.C.E.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

The mission of the National Museum of Women's History is to permanently restore the history of Women to mainstream culture.

The following are just a few examples of facts we should know:

- Among the first world-renowned scientists was Hypatia of Alexandria, born in A.D. 370. She invented the plane astrolabe that could accurately solve problems in spherical astronomy and wrote a thirteen-volume definitive text on algebra entitled Arithmetica.
- In the 11th Century, A.D., Trotula of Salerno, was a pioneer in the field of preventive health. Healers copied her texts, Practica Brevis and DeCompositione Medicamentorum, by hand for 400 years and then printed them for another 300 years after that.
- Aphra Behn, born in 1640, dominated the literary world of Restoration England. During her life, she enjoyed the same type of public acclaim that Shakespeare had achieved a generation earlier. She wrote thirteen novels thirty years before Daniel Defoe wrote Robinson Crusoe (generally credited as the first novel). Behn wrote about the horror of slavery and understood and published the same basic women's issues we are still struggling with today.
- Catherine Littlefield Greene, of Georgia, shared the idea for a Cotton Gin with Eli Whitney. She also financed the patent and fabrication. He merely perfected it.
- Ida Wells Barnett, born in 1862, was an influential African-American journalist and political activist. She exposed lynching as an integral part of racial oppression. She analyzed how the fear of physical violence was used to maintain political and economic control.
- The atomic bomb was made possible by a pacifist Jewish woman. Dr. Lise Meitner was the first to split the atom and coined the discovery "nuclear fission" -- and left the field of atomic physics as soon as the city of Hiroshima was bombed.
- Ada Lovelace designed the prototype computer in ~~1846~~ 1843.
- Admiral Grace Murray Hopper had created the basis of computer software by 1957.
- Gladys Hobby produced the first usable penicillin in the early 1940's.

These examples barely skim the surface of all there is to examine and memorialize about the role of women in every field. A better world awaits the generation that absorbs what women and men have to share about life from a joint perspective.

SESS.

Oct. 7

Holocaust Memorial Council

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UNITED STATES CODE

Congressional and Administrative News

96th Congress—Second Session
1980

Convened January 3, 1980
Adjourned December 16, 1980

Volume 1

PUBLIC LAWS 96-188 to 96-460
[94 Stat. pages 1 to 2048]

ST. PAUL, MINN.
WEST PUBLISHING CO.

Oct. 7

PUBLIC LAW 96-388 [H.R. 8081]: October 7, 1980

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL*For Legislative History of this and other Laws, see Table 1, Public Laws and Legislative History, at end of final volume*

An Act to establish the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby established the United States Holocaust Memorial Council (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Council"). The Council shall—

(1) provide for appropriate ways for the Nation to commemorate the Days of Remembrance, as an annual, national, civic commemoration of the holocaust, and shall encourage and sponsor appropriate observances of such Days of Remembrance throughout the United States;

(2) plan, construct, and oversee the operation of, a permanent living memorial museum to the victims of the holocaust, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior and other Federal agencies as provided in section 5; and

(3) develop a plan for carrying out the recommendations of the President's Commission on the Holocaust in its report to the President of September 27, 1979, to the extent such recommendations are not otherwise provided for in this Act.

SEC. 2. (a) The Council shall consist of sixty voting members appointed (except as otherwise provided in this section) by the President and the following ex officio nonvoting members:

- (1) one appointed by the Secretary of the Interior;
- (2) one appointed by the Secretary of State, and
- (3) one appointed by the Secretary of Education.

Of the sixty voting members, five shall be appointed by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives from among members of the United States House of Representatives and five shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the United States Senate upon the recommendation of the majority and minority leaders from among members of the United States Senate. Any vacancy in the Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(b) The members of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, as in effect immediately before the date of the enactment of this Act, are hereby designated as the initial members of the Council. Such initial members (other than the initial members appointed from the United States Senate or the United States House of Representatives) shall serve terms as follows:

- (1) All initial members shall serve until January 15, 1986.
- (2) On January 15, 1986, the terms of ten of such initial members, as designated in the bylaws of the Council, shall terminate.
- (3) On January 15 of each year thereafter through 1990 the terms of ten other initial members, as designated in the bylaws of the Council, shall terminate.

The terms of the initial members appointed from the United States Senate or the United States House of Representatives shall expire

U.S. Holocaust
Memorial
Council.
Establishment.
36 USC 1401
Commemora-
tion.

Memorial
museum.

President's
Commission on
the Holocaust.
CPO Stock No.
052-003-017-
01-0.
Membership;
appointment.
36 USC 1402.

Initial members.

Terms.

P.L. 96-388

LAWS OF 96th CONG.—2nd SESS.

Oct. 7

Construction,
restriction.

fiscal year 1982, and \$850,000 for the fiscal year 1988: *Provided, however,* That notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds authorized herein may be available for construction. Authority to enter into contracts and to make payments under this Act, using funds authorized to be appropriated under this section, shall be effective only to the extent, and in such amounts, as provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

Approved October 7, 1980.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 96-1247, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):

Sept. 23, considered and passed House.

Sept. 24, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Sept. 25, House concurred in Senate amendments.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 16, No. 41:

Oct. 7, Presidential statement.

PULLED

Schedule Proposal

May 28, 1997

☐ ACCEPT	☐ REGRET	☐ PENDING
--	--	---

TO: Kim Tilley
Patti Solis Doyle
Peg Cusack

FROM: Maria Echaveste
Minyon Moore

REQUEST: For the Vice President, First Lady or Mrs. Gore to attend the rededication ceremony of the "Portrait Monument" (Woman Suffrage Statue) in the Capital Rotunda, and announce the formation of the Presidential Joint Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH). This event is sponsored by the National Museum of Women's History.

PURPOSE:

- To announce the formation of the Presidential Joint Task Force on NMWH, a Washington, DC, nonpartisan, educational institution whose mission is to restore the rich and diverse heritage of women to mainstream culture; and
- To reinforce the President's commitment to preserve and reintroduce the heritage of all women in our nations mainstream culture, the empowerment of women and children, and the revitalization of Washington D.C.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 200 participants including:
Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich
Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott
President of the NMWH Karen Staser
Other members of Congress
Women leaders, local and national

BACKGROUND: The Woman Suffrage Statue was dedicated in the Capitol Rotunda in 1921. Within 24 hours of the dedication the statue was moved to the crypt and has remained there for 75 years. Since then three attempts have been made to raise the statue and as of March Congress unanimously agreed to restore the statue of suffragists Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott to the Capitol Rotunda. The statue made it to its final resting place in the Rotunda on Saturday, May 10, 1997.

The Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign is a project of the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH), a Washington DC based, nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich heritage of all women, and restoring this heritage to mainstream culture. The rededication ceremony of the Woman Suffrage Statue would be a perfect opportunity for the announcement of the Presidential Joint Task Force.

The Presidential Joint Task Force would have representatives from the Administration, Congress and NMWH. It's mission would be to identify a federal site in Washington, D.C; gain legislative authorization of the site; help identify private funds for construction and renovation costs, and help develop plans to privately fund yearly operating costs of the museum.

**PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION:**

None.

DATE AND TIME:

June 26th, 1997; 10:30 am.

LOCATION:

United States Capital Rotunda.

**FIRST LADY
REQUESTED:**

YES.

**MRS. GORE
REQUESTED:**

YES.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Maria Echaveste and Minyon Moore.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Open.

CONTACT:

Sondra Seba, Ph. 6-7310.

**ORIGON OF THIS
PROPOSAL:**

The National Musuem of Women's History and the Women's Office.

NATIONAL POLITICAL CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN, INC.

600 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. • Suite 1125 • Washington, D.C. 20037 • (202) 338-0800 • Fax (202) 625-0499

**MEMORANDUM****NATIONAL OFFICERS:****CHAIR**

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Rev. Willie Barrow

SECOND VICE CHAIR

Deborah Lewis

THIRD VICE CHAIR

Nicole McPherson

RECORDING**SECRETARY**

Tahlya R. Nyahuma

TREASURER

Rev. Gloria E. Miller

GENERAL COUNSEL

Maxine Bethel Cade, Esq.

TO: Sojourner Truth Committee/Supporters

FROM: Dr. C. DeLores Tucker
Chair, National Political Congress of
Black Women, Inc. (NPCBW)

Dr. Janette Hoston Harris
Chair, NPCBW Sojourner Truth Committee

RE: Sojourner Truth Meeting

DATE: May 27, 1997

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Please be advised that there will be an important meeting on the Sojourner Truth issue on Tuesday, June 3, 1997 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Mayor's Office Building at 441 4th Street, N.W. in the 10th Floor Conference Room, Room 1030.

Please plan to attend this meeting. We will be discussing strategy now that the Women's Suffrage Statue is in the Capitol Rotunda, as well as a planned protest on June 26, 1997 — the date that a celebration for the raising of the Women's Suffrage Statue has been scheduled.

It is our position that **ANY STATUE REPRESENTING THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE SOJOURNER TRUTH** and that the raising of the current Women's Suffrage Statue to the Capitol Rotunda should not be celebrated without Truth's inclusion. *Furthermore, a separate statue of Sojourner Truth is unacceptable as is the doctrine of separate but equal enunciated in Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896.*

We hope to see you at the meeting, but if you are unable to attend, please send a representative. Also, please feel free to bring your friends and associates with you. We would appreciate your RSVP by telephone or fax by June 2, 1997.

C:/WP51/struth

1/20/97

SUPPORTERS OF THE SOJOURNER TRUTH CRUSADE

May 1, 1997

Over 100 organizations have endorsed our effort, and the following organizations have switched in support from raising the Portrait Monument to join our coalition: African-American Women's Clergy Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, National Council of Negro Women, and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs

ORGANIZATIONS¹

AFGE, Local, 3407
African-American Business Association
African-American Chamber of Commerce
2000 African-American Women
African-American Women's Clergy Association
African Methodist Episcopal Women
AFSCME, Local 2401
Ain't I A Woman, Inc.
All Nations Baptist Church, D.C.
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
American Friends Service Committee
American Women Heritage Society, Inc.
AMO Foundation
A Woman's Point of View (Philadelphia)
Austin Business Cluster
Baltimore OIC
Baptist Convention of D.C. and Vicinity
Baptist Ministers Conference of Northern Virginia
Berkane-DuBois Institute
Black Leadership Forum
Black United Fund of Women
Black Women Health Project (Philadelphia)
Black Women United for Action
Black Women's Bar Association
Black Women's Network (Milwaukee)
Black Women's Playwrights
Business Organized to Help
Center for New Black Leadership
CHUMS, Inc.
Coalition of African-American Culture Organization (Pennsylvania)
Coalition of African-American, Inc.
Coalition of Black Trade Union, D.C. Chapter
Coalition of 106 Black Women
Congress of National Black Churches
Congressional Black Caucus Spouses
Correctional Women's Missionary Society of the AME Church
Council of 100
D.C. Commission on Women

D.C. Democratic Women
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Family Research Council
Federally Employed Women
French Caribbean Cultural Organization
First Baptist of Glenarden, MD
Grand Temple Daughters of the Elks
Independent Women's Council
Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Revitalization
J.U.G.S., Inc.
Kings Landing Women's Service Club
Labor Women's Roundtable, AFL-CIO
Links, Inc.
Lullaby Guild
Many Flavors Productions Organizations
Martin Luther King Association for Non-Violence
Martin Luther King Jr, D.C. Support Group
Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture Commission
Metropolitan Democratic Women's Club (MWDC)
Motivation Institute of Philadelphia
NAACP Ad Hoc Labor Committee
NAACP, D.C. Chapter
NAACP, Prince William County
National Association of Black County Officials
National Association of Black Elected Officials
National Association of Black Women Attorneys
National Association of Colored Women's Clubs
National Association for Equal Opportunity
National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs
National Association of Political Women, U.S.A.
National Association of Student Affairs Professionals
National Association of University Women (Philadelphia)
National Baptist Association, Inc.
National Beauty Culturists League, Inc.
National Coalition of Black Voter Participation, Inc.
National Coalition of Labor Women
National Council on Education and Public Service
National Council of Negro Women
National Federation of Black Women's Business

¹National Organizations shown in boldface

Owners

National Federation of Democratic Women, D.C.
Chapter

National Negro Publishers Association

National Organization of Black Elected

Legislative Women

National Political Congress of Black Women

National Union of the Homeless

National Women of Achievement, Inc.

Network of Black Women for Justice

Opportunities Industrial Centers

Our Author's Study Club

Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention

Prince George's M.O.M.S

Project 21

Project 2

St. Paul Baptist Church, Capital Heights, MD

Shiloh Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA

Sixteenth Street Heights Neighborhood Association

Sojourner Truth 200th Anniversary committee, Battle
Creek, MI

Sojourner Truth Committee, Northampton, MA

The Gospel Truth of Miami, FL

UNITE, AFL-CIO

United Black Fund

University Church, D.C. Martin Luther King
Association

Unitarian Universalist Church Service Committee

Urban League Guild (Philadelphia)

Ward 8 Tennis Council, Inc.

Washington Conference Branch Women's Mission

Society of 2nd AME (Detroit)

Women in the NAACP (WIN)

Women of the Southern Christian Leadership
Conference

Women at Work

Youth Achievers, Inc.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

INDIVIDUALS²

Mr. George H. Anderson

MAG-Industries

Bishop Vinton R. Anderson

World Council of Churches, President

Dr. Candace Ashley, D.V.M.

Animal Clinic of Anacostia

Dr. Denise Bacc

George Washington University

Hon. Cora Masters Barry

First Lady of Washington, D.C.

Ms. Geraldine Boykin

GBB Political Strategists, Inc.

Ms. Meda Chamberlain

NCMWLA Chapter

Mr. Ralph Clark

Hon. Lois DeBerry

National Conference of State Legislators, Chair

Dr. Janette Huston Harris

Historian and National President,

National Council on Education and Public Service

Dr. Dorothy I. Height

National Council of Negro Women, President

Ms. Beverly Houston

Odyssey Creations

Ms. Dora McDonald

Dr. Julianne Mahieux

Economist

Mr. John Davidson Miller

descendant of Susan B. Anthony

Ms. Pearl Murphy

Hon. Hazel O'Leary

Former Secretary of Energy

Dr. Jewell Prestage

Priddy View Texas A&M University

Ms. Marjorie Richardson & Rev. Peter Ives

Co-Chairs, Sojourner Truth Memorial Statue Committee,

The Committee for Northampton, Massachusetts

Dr. Yvonne Stranges

Black Leadership Forum

Mr. J. Bradley Sparks

Bishop Imogene Stewart

African American Women's Clergy, National President

Dr. C. DeLores Tucker

NPCBW National Chair

Mr. William Tucker

Buena Vista Institute, Vice Chair

Ms. Patricia Penderbark-Ware

Sojourner Truth Crusade Vice Chair

Hon. Mary Burke Washington

Former First Lady, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Grace White Ware

daughter of Cecil Pierce, III, suffragist Madras Penn White

Hon. Diane Watson

State Senator, California

Dr. E. Frey Williams-Dail, Esq.

Dail Marketing Group, Inc.

Dr. Nirma Soderstrom

—President Lincoln University

²Affiliations shown only for purposes of identification.

NATIONAL POLITICAL CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN, INC.

600 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. • Suite 1125 • Washington, D.C. 20037 • (202) 338-0800 • Fax (202) 625-0499



Questions Frequently Asked of the Sojourner Truth Committee

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Mrs. Coretta Scott King

Rev. Addie Wyatt

THE EFFORT TO RAISE THE VICTORY MONUMENT HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY OPPOSING IT NOW?

The effort to raise the Victory Monument originated in plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment -- on August 21, 1995. African Americans are deeply committed to the vote as the central hynchpin of freedom and citizen's rights, and many prominent African American leaders and groups (including the NPCBW) supported the rededication of the Nineteenth Amendment Victory Monument for which we marched as well. But what is being proposed now reflects a different agenda -- a statue to reflect the women's movement. We do not believe now, nor did we believe then, that the Victory Monument encompasses the work that women of color did under great suffering for women's suffrage, and for equality for working women. The effort to raise the Victory Monument was mounted with the best of intentions, but we must work together to ensure that a statue for all women is placed in the Rotunda.

THERE ARE EFFORTS TO ERECT A STATUE IN HONOR OF SOJOURNER TRUTH IN BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN, AND IN NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS. WHY AREN'T YOU WORKING WITH THEM?

In fact we are. Both groups have endorsed our efforts.

THE VICTORY MONUMENT WAS REMOVED SURREPTITIOUSLY FROM THE ROTUNDA AFTER ITS DEDICATION AND PLACED IN THE BASEMENT -- WHY SHOULDN'T IT SIMPLY BE RESTORED TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS MANY HAVE ARGUED?

The claim that the Victory Monument has a privileged right to display in the Rotunda is false. First, the Victory Monument is not in the basement - it is on the first floor of the Capitol immediately underneath the Rotunda

in a beautiful room called the "Crypt" which, as one of the building's principal display areas, is a featured stop on the official U.S. Capitol tour. Second, the Victory Monument was given to Congress by the National Women's Party with a guarantee that it would be removed from the Rotunda immediately after the dedication ceremony on February 15, 1921 (It was moved to the Crypt on February 17th).

SOJOURNER TRUTH WAS NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT TO THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT. WHY SHOULD SHE BE ON A STATUE WITH ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, SUSAN B. ANTHONY AND LUCRETIA MOTT?

Sojourner Truth is listed in every history of the suffrage movement even that edited by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Matilda Joslyn Gage in their History of Woman Suffrage (published in 1881). Truth never learned to read and write; unlike the more privileged suffragists, we do not have her own written words to study. There is dispute over her wording in the famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech she gave in Akron, Ohio in 1951 -- but no one disputes that she gave it and doing so saved the meeting from disaster. In her time, few could read and write -- it was her unparalleled speaking ability (she was bilingual in Dutch and English) that convinced many to support women's rights. Truth, like her fellow suffragists, started by working for abolition, and spurned all inherent right of privilege; more broadly than other prominent advocates of women's suffrage, she argued for working class women. Supporting herself as a domestic, Truth contributed a unique vision of equality, no doubt arising from her travels as an abused former slave whose own children remained in slavery after her own emancipation.

THE STATUE MAY BE HISTORICALLY INACCURATE, BUT THAT WAS JUST THE WAY THINGS WERE DONE THEN. WHY CAN'T WE JUST LET PAST HISTORY SPEAK FOR ITSELF AND USE A PLAQUE EXPLAINING THE ISSUE AS AN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY? AFTER ALL, THERE SHOULD BE A STATUE OF A WOMAN IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA.

We agree that there should be a statue for women in the Rotunda, and it is true that the Victory Monument reflects a racist era where segregation was institutionalized. But this only means that contributions of African Americans were not recorded -- It does not mean that African Americans did not work for suffrage. Not only was Sojourner Truth a suffragist, so, too, were many African American women, including the Delta Kappa Theta sorority which marched in the 1913 suffrage parade during Woodrow Wilson's inauguration demanding suffrage for women. All women's groups marched in alphabetical order -- but the Delta's were asked to march at the rear, behind the "Z's". They demanded their proper place, and as a result, marched with the "D's". To erect this status to represent all women's suffrage endorses racism and seperatism. The exclusion

of women of color is not history -- it is an inaccurate portrayal of history.

DESPITE ITS FLAWS, THE VICTORY MONUMENT WAS DEDICATED IN HONOR OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT, AND AS SUCH HAS A UNIQUE CLAIM TO BE THE WOMAN'S STATUE.

While the Victory Monument has served as a rallying point for feminists, it is also the personal vision of one woman's view of feminism -- Adelaide Johnson. Known as the "Sculptress of the Woman's Movement," Johnson, in the words of Edith Mayo, an art historian who has studied her work, had a lifelong ambition "to place such a monument in the Capitol" and her art "was a political statement of her feminism." The statue was not commissioned by the leaders of the women's movement; it was instead promoted by Johnson first with the National American Women's Suffrage Association, and then later with NAWSA's rival, the Woman's Party, after a bitter break with Susan B. Anthony who strongly opposed the placement of her statue in the Capitol.

ISN'T THIS JUST ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT "POLITICAL CORRECTNESS" OR IDENTITY POLITICS -- AN EFFORT TO ENSURE DIVERSITY IN AN HISTORICAL ART OBJECT?

No, it is not -- it is an effort to represent history accurately and do the right thing. Over 100 organizations have endorsed our position, including the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (Susan B. Anthony was a Unitarian, and the Akron speech was given at a Universalist Church) and the American Society of Friends (Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were Quakers) both endorsed our position, as well as contributors to the Suffrage Statue Campaign and descendants of Susan B. Anthony. It is our position that any statue representing the women's suffrage movement should include Sojourner Truth.

THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE HAS PROPOSED THAT A SEPARATE STATUE OF SOJOURNER TRUTH BE PLACED ALONGSIDE THE VICTORY MONUMENT IN THE ROTUNDA. WHY ISN'T THIS ACCEPTABLE?

In 1954, the Supreme Court declared that separate is always, unequal is Brown v. Board of Education. This is the foundation of a more just society -- that our children learn from the very first that segregation is wrong even if the quality of the materials is the same. Art is symbolic; the placing of a separate statue recreates the discredited, racist history of "separate but equal". Surely this is not the message we wish America's schoolchildren to see when they visit the nation's capitol.



20 REASONS TO OPPOSE CELEBRATION OF THE PORTRAIT MONUMENT WITHOUT THE INCLUSION OF SOJOURNER TRUTH

- 1. The Portrait Monument excludes Sojourner Truth who is widely acclaimed by scholars and students of the women's movement as a nineteenth century leader, suffragist, and fighter for equal rights for all.**
- 2. H. Con. Res. 216 (passed by the House on September 26th, 1997 and the Senate on September 27th, 1997, with no hearing or reports or floor debate) misrepresents the suffrage movement by presenting Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony as the only "pioneers" worthy of recognition "In the movement for women's suffrage and the pursuit of equal rights.**
- 3. Sojourner Truth was a national leader who traveled throughout the United States on behalf of women's suffrage and equality.**
- 4. The goal of placing a statue in the Rotunda honoring women is a laudable one-- but the Portrait Monument is controversial and will serve as a divisive symbol.**
- 5. Susan B. Anthony herself objected to the display of the statue in the Capitol (preferring instead the Library of Congress)-- sparking a bitter break between the National American Women's Suffrage Association and Adelaide Johnson, the sculptor of the Portrait Monument, who then took her work to the rival National Women's Party.**
- 6. The Portrait Monument has been defaced as sacrilegious-- it was inscribed with a statement that many people of faith (including suffragists like Sojourner Truth who found inspiration in their faith) found offensive -- and no display of the statue can be historically valid without reviving this controversy.**
- 7. The size of the Portrait Monument has forced the removal of the statue of Roger Williams, a noted defender of religious freedom from the Rotunda (It is now located in an area of the Capitol not accessible to the public).**

8. **The Portrait Monument is historically inaccurate in excluding Sojourner Truth because she worked with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott for suffrage— the purpose of placing works of art in the US Capitol is to serve as an educational display for future generations.**
9. **The Portrait Monument is a notoriously unattractive statue— often referred to as “Three Ladies in a Bathtub” that risks bringing ridicule on the women’s movement.**
10. **The Portrait Monument is a large 13 ton statue that will look out of place among the refined statues already on display in the Rotunda, and some fear that the weight of the statue will damage the Capitol Building if placed on the second floor in the Rotunda.**
11. **To display a separate statue of Sojourner Truth is an affront to all Americans — including the early women suffragists who began in the abolition movement— who oppose the discredited separation of whites and blacks known as “separate but equal” in established law in the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision until overturned in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.**
12. **The women’s movement must make visible what has become invisible today—the continuing exclusion and denial of the work of women of color to women’s suffrage. In 1995, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was refused permission to march in the 75th Anniversary recreation of the 1913 suffrage march on the grounds that the Deltas had not marched in 1913. In a humiliating effort to reclaim their rightful place, the Deltas had to obtain proof from the National Archives to be permitted to march in 1995. The dedication of the Portrait Monument on February 16, 1921 (Susan B. Anthony’s birthday) was made by Jane Adams saying that “ *We are solemnly gathered here to place a significant milestone on the long road of self-government which has widened to include one enfranchised group after another. Now at last the women are coming into their own. None have worked more eagerly than women and their victorious banner along is free from the stain of blood* ” . In 1997— as in 1995 and 1913 marches and in the 1921 statue dedication, the movement remains stained with racism— this must not be the legacy that we leave to our children.**

13. **No private funds should dictate the display of any art or other object in the US Capitol because this sets a dangerous precedent for private influence in the people's house.**
14. **The Sojourner Truth Crusade has been endorsed by prominent academics and citizens including some descendants of Susan B. Anthony and contributors to those supporting the Portrait Monument.**
15. **The more than 100 organizations who have endorsed the Sojourner Truth Crusade deserve a hearing before the Congressional Women's Suffrage Commission who will decide on a permanent statue.**
16. **The National Women's Party in donating the statue to Congress, agreed to arrange for the removal of the Portrait Monument from the Rotunda immediately after the public dedication ceremony to the crypt, where it has been on continuous display since 1921.**
17. **The Portrait Monument is not in the basement; it is displayed on the first floor of the Capitol in a prominent display area.**
18. **To put the Portrait Monument on display in the Rotunda for one year is silly and a waste of public resources—the Congressional Women's Suffrage Commission should recommend a permanent statue honoring women in the Rotunda. Further, moving such a large statue increases the risk that the Portrait Monument might suffer serious damage.**
19. **Should the Portrait Monument be moved, it should be placed in a display (in a women's art museum or a women's history museum such as proposed by the private Suffrage Statue Commission headed by Karen Staser) where it's significance and history may be properly displayed in the context of the women's movement.**
20. **The Suffrage Committee raising funds has already acknowledged that Sojourner Truth should be included—the major dispute is how this should be accomplished.**

June 3, 1997

CAOFFICE\WFWIN\WPD\DOC\TRUTH\CRU.WPD

SOJOURNER TRUTH



LET US ALL JOIN IN SUPPORTING THE SOJOURNER TRUTH CRUSADE

If Sojourner Truth were alive today, she would be raising "holy hell" over being slighted in the placing of a so-called "Suffrage Statue" in the Rotunda of the U. S. Capitol.

In her spirit, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, president-founder, National Political Congress of Black Women, has aroused and mobilized more than 100 organizations, including some White groups, in rightful indignation over the efforts of a White feminist group to move a monument to women's suffrage from the crypt area of the U. S. Capitol, where it has been for 76 years, and place it in the Rotunda without the full representation of Sojourner Truth.

At a packed press conference on Capitol Hill this past week, an angry Dr. Tucker said, "The history of Sojourner Truth's contributions to the suffrage movement are well-documented. There was no voice more eloquent than hers. She was left out of history and betrayed then. And now, on the eve of the 21st century, they are trying to leave her out of history and betray her again. But I say to you this day and in the hallowed halls of Congress that this charade shall not stand. There is much talk (since we raised the issue) about doing a separate statue of Sojourner Truth. On the surface, that sounds like a noble gesture. But to me, it is nothing but the separate but equal doctrine that ushered in the 20th century."

We emphatically agree with Dr. Tucker, the National Political Congress of Black Women and the more than 100 other organizations which have joined this campaign. Those familiar with history know that Sojourner Truth discovered the new women's movement in 1850. Ms. Truth developed a relationship with Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, whose profiles are projected on the monument. It was at the second Women's Rights Convention that Ms. Truth delivered her famous "Ain't I A Woman" speech in 1851.

We call upon our friends in the U.S. Congress to understand clearly the principles involved in this Sojourner Truth crusade, and that is that American history has to be inclusive and representative of the contributions of all Americans. There should not be a question in the minds of any members of the U.S. Congress that Sojourner Truth is a legend and symbol of one of the most courageous women fighters in American history for the emancipation of both Black slaves and women of all colors from second class citizenship. In this fight, justice will not be denied!

The AFRO-American Newspapers and other members of NNPA, the trade association of the Black press, are proud to be a part of this crusade in the spirit and legacy of Sojourner Truth.

Suffrage statue in Rotunda still being opposed

By Robin Leary
Tribune Staff

Despite the Woman's Suffrage Statue being moved to the Capitol Rotunda on Saturday, women's groups have vowed to continue their fight until Sojourner Truth is also included with the three other white suffragists honored by the statue.

"Since it has been moved, we intend to make sure that there will be no celebration of any statue symbolizing the suffrage movement without honoring its chief advocate and spokesperson Sojourner Truth," said Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, national chair of the National Political Congress of Black women.

Tucker's group, along with about 150 other religious, political, civic, and civil rights groups have voiced their opposition to the statue, which features Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

State Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-GA, who believes Congress acted too hastily last year in agreeing to raise the Suffragette Statue, introduced legislation last month to have the raising of the statue postponed but it was moved anyway.

While the women behind the campaign have offered to help in seeing that a separate statue of Sojourner Truth be placed in the

(Continued on Page 3-A)

Women's groups vow to continue fight for Truth

(Continued from Page 1-A)

Rotunda, after the statue of the three women is settled, that offer falls short of what some Black women are asking for.

"We won't settle for separate but equal," said Tucker, "and that's all this offer tries to do. We don't want the thousands of Black young children going past that statue to believe that only white women were responsible for getting women the vote, not when we know Sojourner Truth as well as hundreds of Black women were marching and working in the movement too."

Tucker likens this incident to one she said occurred with the Deltas, the second largest sorority of African-American women, in 1995.

"Many of these same women involved with this statue project didn't want the Deltas to march in a parade remembering a 1913 suffrage march and asked them to march in the back of the parade because they thought Black women hadn't participated in the first march," recalled Tucker. "It wasn't until the Deltas, the second largest sorority of Black women in this country, went back to their archives and showed photos of Black women marching that these white women backed away from their position."

Teta Banks, executive director of the Philadelphia Martin Luther King Association for Non-Violence, has also said that having that statue represent the suffrage movement would perpetuate a false history.

"Any statue reflecting the women's suffrage movement must include Sojourner Truth or else it would be perpetuating the omission of African-Americans in history — as this has been a major concern in history throughout the century," said Banks. "These types of omissions have misinformed not only Americans, but people throughout the world about the value and contributions of African-Americans."

As for what can be done now that the Woman's Suffrage Statue is in the Rotunda, Tucker said that she and others are working on plans to prevent any celebration of the statue. Tucker declined to say whether she and opponents would protest at any planned celebration of the statue.

National Museum of Women's History

2760 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 180
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-328-2111
Fax: 703-960-6185

TALKING POINTS ON RETURN OF "PORTRAIT MONUMENT" TO ROTUNDA AND NATIONAL OUTREACH OF STATUE CAMPAIGN

217-7971

The National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) has requested the date of June 23 or June 24, 1997 for the rededication ceremony of the "Portrait Monument" in the Capitol Rotunda.

BACKGROUND

- The "Portrait Monument" was dedicated in the Rotunda on Feb. 15, 1921 but within 24 hours Congress moved it into a storage room in the Crypt and removed its gold-gilt inscription. After four failed legislative attempts to return the monument to the Rotunda (1928, 1932, 1950 & 1995), Congress unanimously passed legislation to do so in September, 1996.
- The "Portrait Monument" honors Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony for their leadership in the woman suffrage movement - a 72 year struggle for the right to vote for the majority of citizens in the United States. (More citizens were enfranchised through this bloodless revolution than through the Revolutionary War or the Civil War.) This statue honors all women. As documented, the artist deliberately left an unfinished portion to symbolize all the women who fought for women's right to vote and those in the future who would continue the fight for justice and equality for all.
- For the past 76 years citizens have fought to return the statue of Mott, Stanton, and Anthony to its rightful place in the Rotunda where we honor the most significant leaders of our representative democracy.
- The last endeavor to return this statue was led by NMWH's National Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign. We gained the unanimous support of both Houses of Congress, 80 organization's, and thousands of individuals, and raised \$75,000 for relocation costs.

Among the 80 organizations supporting the Campaign were:

Association of American University Women
African-American Women's Clergy Association

Black Women's Agenda
Business and Professional Women, USA
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (African-American org.)
Democratic National Committee
National Association of Colored Women's Clubs
National Association of Commissions for Women
National Council of Negro Women
National Federation of Republican Women
National League of Women Voters
National Museum of Women in the Arts
National Women's History Project
Republican National Committee
Republican Network for Women

Congressional Supporters include:

Speaker Newt Gingrich, Sen. Trent Lott, Sen. Tom Daschle, Rep. Dick Gephardt, Sen. Barbara Boxer, Sen. Diane Feinstein, Sen. Sheila Frahm, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Sen. Patty Murray, Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, Sen. Olympia Snowe, Sen. Ted Stevens, Sen. John Warner, Rep. Jennifer Dunn, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Rep. Nita Lowey, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Rep. Susan Molinari, Rep. Connie Morella, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, Rep. Marge Roukema, and Rep. Maxine Waters.

- Under the direction of House Concurrent Resolution 216, all contracts with vendors to move the statue have been signed and are being implemented.
- There are no cancellation clauses in the contracts. The National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) is liable for the full amount of the contracts arranged by Congress.
- The National Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign made an inclusive and diverse outreach to women's organizations across the nation to gain their support. The National Political Congress of Black Women (NPCBW) and their President, C. DeLores Tucker, were formally invited to join this endeavor on three occasions during the two year campaign. Although they had ample opportunity to raise their concerns, they waited until one month after the legislation had passed and contracts had been signed to demand that the "Portrait Monument" not be raised unless Sojourner Truth was carved into it.
- NMWH has surveyed our supporters and found that they want Congress to proceed with the rededication of the "Portrait Monument," incorporating recognition of Sojourner Truth into the ceremony, and to support legislation for a statue of Truth. None of the organizations have withdrawn their support for returning the "Portrait Monument" to the Rotunda. NPCBW is the only group who has raised any objection.

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- NMWH has met with Dr. Tucker twice in a good-faith attempt to address their concerns. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton is now interceding on our behalf.
- As explained to Dr. Tucker, NMWH cannot absorb the financial damages it will incur should we break our contracts and cancel the rededication ceremony.

So far, NPCBW has rejected the following proposal:

1. Support legislation to commission statue of Sojourner Truth or one with all four suffragists and make the announcement of the legislation at the historic rededication ceremony.
2. Have a bust of Sojourner Truth present at Ceremony.
3. Recreate one of Sojourner Truth's famous speeches or some other dramatic event at the ceremony.
4. Add a description of Sojourner Truth's contributions to the plaque accompanying "Portrait Monument" in the Rotunda.
5. Nationally publicize Truth's contributions along with Mott, Stanton, and Anthony prior to and at rededication ceremony, and in the printed program.
6. Ask Dr. Tucker to speak at the ceremony.

Recognizing the historical importance of Sojourner Truth, NMWH will proceed as follows:

- NMWH will profile Sojourner Truth along with Mott, Stanton, and Anthony in a national publicity campaign (through Burson-Marsteller) prior to and during the rededication ceremony of the "Portrait Monument," and in the printed program.
- NMWH has commissioned a bust of Sojourner Truth to be on display during the rededication ceremony and, if accepted, to be donated to Congress.
- NMWH supports legislation now being drafted by the Congressional Women's Caucus to commission a statue of Sojourner Truth and has invited Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton to make an announcement at the rededication ceremony.
- NMWH has invited Dr. Dorothy Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women, the most prominent African-American women's organization, to speak at the rededication ceremony.

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SPECIAL NOTE:

- Mott, Stanton, and Anthony were prominent abolitionists. Mott and Stanton actually met in London in 1840 at the World Anti-slavery Convention. (Newlywed, Stanton and her husband were such staunch abolitionists that they incorporated their honeymoon into attending this convention.)
- Having participated fully in the American abolition movement, Mott and Stanton were stunned to learn that they could not attend the 1840 World Anti-slavery Convention because they were women. They discussed the fact that they had barely more legal standing than the slaves they were trying to free and that they should devote some of their energies to women's rights.
- The seeds of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY were planted that day. Mott and Stanton organized the convention and Stanton authored and delivered the famous Declaration of Sentiments. Anthony joined them two years later. All three devoted the rest of their lives to leading the woman suffrage movement.
- Sojourner Truth was a prominent abolitionist, suffragist, and preacher. After the Civil War she worked for freedmen's relief in Washington, D.C., and for their resettlement in Michigan and New York. She fought against discrimination in public transportation, developed and lobbied for a plan to resettle freedmen in the West at government expense and supported the Kansas exodus, a spontaneous movement of thousands of freedmen from the South.
- Sojourner Truth made her famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech at the 1851 Akron, Ohio Women's Rights Convention. Nell Irwin Painter, African-American historian and biographer of Sojourner Truth, makes the following comments about the event in her recent book, *Sojourner Truth: A Life, a Symbol*, on page 129:

"Contrary to legend, Truth had not braved a hostile white crowd, for the crowd was friendly. She had not stopped a malicious male attack on women, for the men supported women's rights. Nor had she saved a mass of cowering white women, for the women spoke with confidence. But Truth did see her presence in the meeting as a rousing success. Writing to her friend Amy Post, she said she had met 'plenty of kind friends just like you & they gave me so many kind invitations I hardly knew which to accept first.'"
- Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton and other historians feel that honoring Sojourner Truth only as a suffragist diminishes the breadth of her contributions to America.
- The mission of the National Museum of Women's History is to restore the rich and diverse heritage of women to mainstream culture. We look forward to continuing our work to herald Sojourner Truth and other important African-American suffragists, as well as the profound multi-cultural contributions of women throughout the world.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1997

Elena —

Attached please find 1) pertinent information on the possible formation of a Presidential Joint Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH); and 2) information on the ongoing political debate regarding support for the suffrage statue rededication on June 26.

The opposition is spearheaded by C. Dolores Tucker and they are planning a protest outside the event. I would hope that we could get both sides to the table here at the White House late this week to discuss their concerns, and hopefully facilitate a compromise to diffuse this situation. This issue is certainly divided down racial lines, and we have an incredible opportunity to intervene and mediate a solution.

Sondra
6-7310



Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP
cc: Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP, Cheryl M. Carter/WHO/EOP, Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP, Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP
Subject: Re: POTUS/FLOTUS message request for Suffrage Event 

Maria -- speaking of the politics -- I just got a call from Gayle Ravnitzky in Rep. Carol Maloney's office stressing the need for this message of support from the President. They are hoping that the reason none of the principals can attend the rededication ceremony is simply scheduling conflicts and NOT because of CD Tucker or any loss of support for the importance of the event or the NMWH by the President. Gayle reminded me that when Rep. Maloney participated in the Congressional Women's Caucus meeting with the POTUS and VPOTUS a few months ago that she brought up the idea of the President forming a joint task force on the National Museum of Women's History -- and he said it was a GREAT idea. Now, they're wanting to know: 1) if in fact the President is still supporting this idea,
2) how far along are we in the process of getting it formed, and 3) if there could be a mention of this in his letter to be ready at the rededication. Gayle was also wondering why the White House (the President) has NOT even responded to the letter to the President signed by 46 members of Congress urging the formation of this task force.

I think Congresswoman Maloney may need to get a call from you or another senior person regarding the following:

- 1) The continued support of the Administration for the formation of a Presidential Joint Task Force on the NMWH and the Suffrage Statue (and why we will have no senior Administration representation at the rededication event);
- 2) Where we are on the task force process (it's in General Counsel's hands under review right now - with Rob Weiner -- as of Monday);
- 3) The prospect of a Presidential message to be read aloud at the Rededication ceremony 6/26 and the possibility its mentioning the possible formation of the task force; and
- 4) The prospect of a written response from the President to the letter of wide support from the 46 House Representatives for the formation of a Presidential Task Force on the NMWH.

Please advise.

**NEED FOR PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY (NMWH)**

- The National Museum of Women's History will be a "bricks and mortar" legacy for people to point to twenty years from now and say, "This is what President Clinton did for women."
- The founding of NMWH will span the next eight years, providing opportunities not only for the President but the Vice President to demonstrate commitment and support to their female constituency.
- NMWH is a non-profit, grass roots institution dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich and diverse heritage of *all* women. Major women's groups involved and supporting NMWH range from the Democratic Women's Leadership Forum and the National Federation of Republican Women to the League of Women Voters and the National Council of Negro Women. A Presidential Task Force or Committee is needed as a vehicle to obtain a federal site in Washington, D.C., and to attract prominent citizens capable of the fundraising necessary to be privately funded thereafter.
- The authorizing legislation to create the task force/commission is the Federal Advisory Commission Act (Table 1, Public Laws and Legislative History, Final Volume). See the attached copy of Public Law 96-388 establishing the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.
- NMWH recommends a 25-member task force comprised primarily of private citizens and including representatives from the Administration and Congress. Due to budget constraints that did not exist at the formation of the Holocaust Council, NMWH recommends members serve on a voluntary basis. The Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, or GSA could take administrative responsibility for the task force.
- A national institution specifically dedicated to the heritage of women does not exist. Although the Smithsonian Institution sponsors some related programs, it has only two permanent exhibits on women's history. Budget cuts are making it more difficult to manage existing programs at the Smithsonian. Adding an endeavor of this magnitude is infeasible.
- A national museum of women's history will create an institution giving Americans and foreign visitors the opportunity to learn of the unique cultural legacy, historic grandeur, and contemporary contributions of women worldwide from the dawn of civilization.
- Women have made profound contributions to civilization but, as well documented, they are glossed over or left out of mainstream texts, museums, and public memorials.
- Culture is shaped by what we value, which we express in the ways listed above. Unfortunately, less than two percent of the contents of modern history books explore women's history, less than five percent of the nation's 2,200 National Historical Landmarks are dedicated women, and there are only 40 public outdoor statues of women.

- At present, history reflects and values mainly male experiences and contributions.
- This exclusion and devaluation of what philosophers call "the feminine" has severely torn the fabric of our culture. It is manifested in symptoms of widespread violence and poverty - a general *dis-ease* of culture. However, the brunt of this disease is suffered by women and girls throughout the world.
- The pressure to solve these problems is coming from every segment of society. Although females bear more of the negative consequences of our dysfunctional culture, males are also harmed. Leaders and scholars everywhere are looking for ways to solve this crisis ranging from women's shelters, to legislation on "stalking," to the Presidential event with General Colin Powell on "volunteerism."
- Social scientists and politicians, including President Clinton, have joined forces to discover and implement ways to return to a "civil society." They realize that addressing problems such as welfare, domestic violence, and crime with immediate action (programs, policies) is important but will not cure their underlying causes. To move society toward a better, more equitable and just future, on a lasting basis, our culture must be transformed.
- NMWH will transform culture by restoring the knowledge and respect of women, their contributions and "the feminine." Not only will it change the way men and boys view women and girls, but the way women and girls see themselves.
- Women must begin to see themselves as actors in the past, to gain strength and inspiration for the struggles in the present. Visibility in the past equals empowerment in the present.



Sondra L. Seba

06/04/97 05:36:32 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP
cc: Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP
Subject: Suffrage Statue Rededication Scheduling Request

Marj mentioned you may have some questions on the scheduling request -- so maybe I can be of help in addressing them. One question you might have is why did we include the possible announcement of the Presidential Joint Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH). Minyon and I included that piece for this reason: Joan Wages of the NMWH talked with the President at a WLF event on May 19th about it -- she asked him to create the Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History, saying that it would be a wonderful legacy for him to leave for the women of this country. He said, "Well, let's get to work on it!" He immediately called Craig Smith over to talk w/Joan about the task force. Joan faxed everything related to it to Craig the next day. Minyon called me the next day to tell me that Craig had indeed asked her about it -- she told Craig that she was already working with Joan and me on the whole thing. Therefore, we included that piece in case it is possible to make the announcement on the 26th at the ceremony. I have a call in to Dawn Chirwa (counsel's office) for counsel and procedure on the possible formation of a task force.

FYI--Joan has gone direct to Lucia in the VP's office to ask her to pursue the VP for this event. I've got a call into Lucia to check status.

ALSO, on the C. Dolores front -- Minyon told me that C. was planning a meeting about the statue. Doesn't look good right now for C. to participate in the event, but Minyon is going to talk with her again soon. Minyon will keep me informed, and I you.

Hope this helps!



MEMORANDUM

5 Pages to Follow

To: Sondra Seba
From: Joan Wages
Date: May 21, 1997
Subject: Request to Vice President Gore -- Re: June 26

Attached is the letter that we have sent to Vice President Gore. I asked Lucia Gilliland in the Vice President's office to get the request to his scheduler and that your request will follow. I'll be happy to help you work on the request.

I spoke with the President on Monday evening at a WLF event. I asked him to create the Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) and told him that it would be a wonderful legacy for him to leave to the women of this country. He said, "Well, let's get to work on it." Needless to say, I was pleased. He called Craig Smith over and the next day I faxed Craig all the information on the Museum.

Let me know what I can do to help on the scheduling request for the Vice President.

Thank you immensely for your help!

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

May 21, 1997

The Honorable Albert Gore
Vice President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

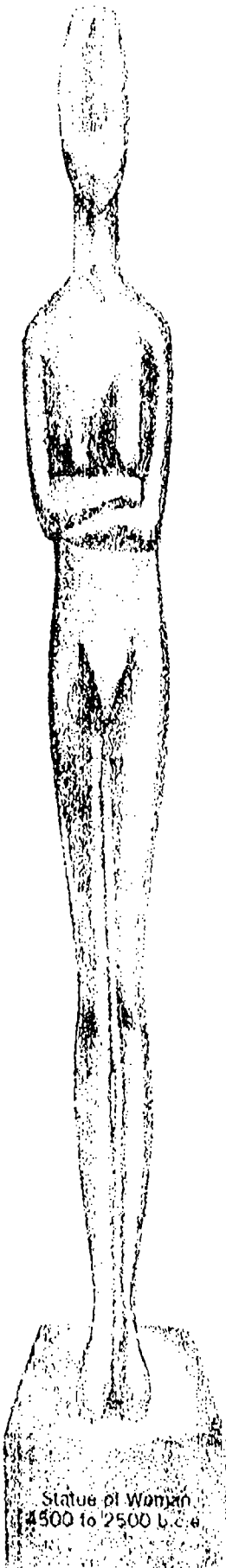
Dear Vice President Gore:

After a 76-year struggle by women, Congress has unanimously agreed to restore the statue of suffragists Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott to the Capitol Rotunda. Although these courageous and visionary leaders enfranchised 52% of our population, their images and story have been relegated to the Capitol crypt since 1921. Finally, due to the work of the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, which succeeded in raising both public awareness and the congressionally required money for relocation costs, this important historic symbol will be rededicated in the Rotunda on June 26, 1997 at 10:30a.m. The Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, the first project of the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH), is honored to invite you to participate in this historic Rededication Ceremony. Under separate cover, we are also asking Speaker Gingrich and Mrs. Clinton to participate. Others invited to take part include Senator John Warner, Representative Connie Morella, Representative Carolyn Maloney, Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton and Dr. Dorothy Height.

Because of the historical significance of Mott, Stanton, and Anthony and the fact that for the first time in our nation's history our foremothers and forefathers will stand side by side, we feel the Rededication Ceremony would be the perfect occasion for you to announce the formation of a Presidential Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History and the launch of our cyberspace museum. NMWH was incorporated last year as a nonprofit organization and hopes to partner with the government in establishing the physical site of the Museum. The federal government would furnish the site while yearly operating costs would be privately funded - similar to the structure of the National Building Museum and the U.S. Holocaust Museum. (Details in Enclosure 1.)

Throughout our campaign to return the Suffragist Statue to the Capitol Rotunda we have received strong support from women and men across the nation. NMWH also has the full and enthusiastic support of Betsy Myers, former Director of the White House Office on Women's Initiatives and Outreach. The House of Representatives and Senate have made formal requests to the President to form a Presidential Task Force and the Senate is in the process of doing the same.

303 West Glendale Avenue - Alexandria, VA 22301
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staser@ix.netcom.com



Statue of Woman
14500 to 2500 B.C.E.

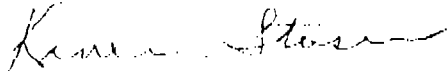
Supporting the National Museum of Women's History would make clear your and the Administration's intention to honor women's past contributions, and to support and encourage their continuing contributions to our nation. NMWH was created in response to American women's deeply compelling desire, in the face of major social and political change, to give voice to their unique perspective on history and in creating a better future. (Enclosure 2.)

We have attached further information and supporting documents. We welcome the opportunity to discuss NMWH with you and your staff and are available to answer any questions.

We hope you will agree to participate in the historic Rededication Ceremony of the Suffragist Statue in the Capitol Rotunda and to announce a Presidential Task Force on NMWH and the cyberspace museum. At a minimum, we hope that you will honor us with your participation at the ceremony and the announcement of the NMWH cyberspace museum, and that we can continue to discuss the Task Force. It could be announced in a future ceremony.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do in support of women and children, and for your vision of a better world.

Most Respectfully,



Karen K. Staser
President, NMWH

cc: Craig Smith
Maria Echeveste
Minyon Moore
Sondra Seba

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

May 9, 1997

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

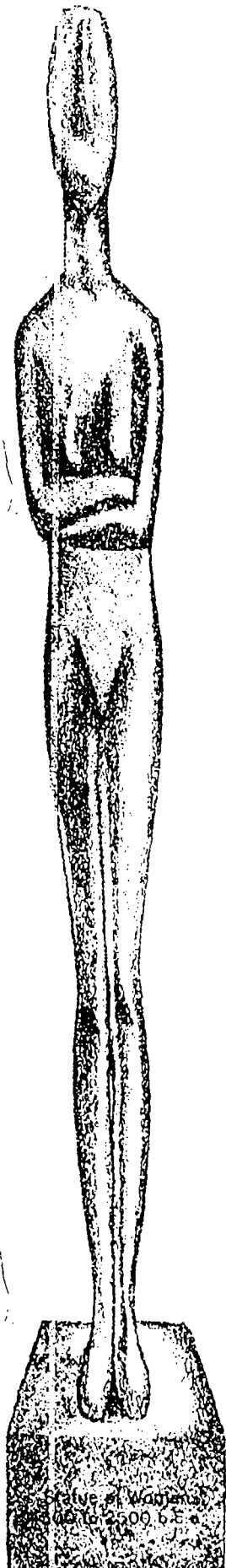
After a 76-year struggle by women, Congress has unanimously agreed to restore the statue of suffragists Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott to the Capitol Rotunda. Although these courageous and visionary leaders enfranchised 52% of our population, their images and story have been relegated to the Capitol crypt since 1921. Finally, due to the work of the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, a project of the newly formed National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) in raising both public awareness and the congressionally required money for relocation costs, this important historic symbol will be rededicated in the Rotunda on June 26, 1997 at 10:30a.m. NMWH is honored to invite you to participate in this historic Rededication Ceremony. Under separate cover, we are also asking the President and Speaker Gingrich to participate. Others invited to take part include Senator John Warner, Rep. Connie Morella, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton and Dr. Dorothy Height.

Because of the historical significance of Mott, Stanton, and Anthony and the fact that for the first time in our nation's history our foremothers and forefathers will stand side by side, we feel the Rededication Ceremony would be the perfect occasion for the President to announce the formation of a Presidential Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History. NMWH was incorporated last year as a nonprofit organization and hopes to partner with the government in establishing the physical site of the Museum. The federal government would furnish the site while yearly operating costs would be privately funded - similar to the structure of the National Building Museum and the US Holocaust Museum. (Details in Enclosure 1.)

We have forwarded our proposal to the President and hope to have your support as well.

Throughout our campaign to return the Suffragist Statue to the Capitol Rotunda we have received strong support from women and men across the nation. NMWH also has the full and enthusiastic support of Betsy Myers, Director of the White House Office on Women's Initiatives and Outreach. In fact, she calls this project a "gift to the President." The House of Representatives has made a formal request to the President to form a Presidential Task Force and the Senate is in the process of doing the same.

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

March 7, 1997

Mrs. Tipper Gore
Office of the Vice President
Old Executive Office Building, Room 200
Washington, D.C., 20501

Dear Mrs. Gore:

Debbie Johnson told me she spoke to you at the Lifetime Television's Awards Dinner about the formation of the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) and that you requested further information. We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the Museum.

Debbie mentioned that you emphasized the importance of recognizing women's many contributions to civilization in your remarks at the Awards Dinner. This is precisely the mission of NMWH... to preserve and celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of all women and to restore this heritage to mainstream culture. To that end, NMWH was incorporated as a 501(c)3 last year. We immediately launched our first project, the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, and began working with Congress to explore the donation of a federal site in Washington, D.C. to house the Museum.

The President will receive a letter from the U.S. House of Representatives requesting a joint task force on NMWH. The U.S. Senate has initiated a similar letter. (A task force proposal is enclosed.) We request your support in the formation of this joint task force on the National Museum of Women's History.

We have written you previously concerning the NMWH Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign. We engaged in a successful two year campaign which completed a 76-year effort to restore a monument to the "mothers of suffrage" - Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony - to the Capitol Rotunda. We garnered the support of 96 organizations and thousands of individuals, raising both public awareness and \$75,000 for relocation costs. Enclosed is a February 23 op-ed by George Will concerning the Statue, which demonstrates the blindsightedness many still have toward honoring our nation's female heroes. Our response is also enclosed.

A formal rededication ceremony of the Suffragist Statue in the Capitol Rotunda will be held on Thursday, June 26, 1997 at 10:30 a.m. We would be honored for you to participate in this historic event. For the first time in our nation's history the foremothers who led the battle to enfranchise the majority of American

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Page 2 of 2

citizens will stand beside our forefathers. Mrs. Clinton, the Vice President, and the President will be invited to participate as well. As mentioned in the enclosed proposal, the Rotunda Ceremony might be a perfect opportunity to announce an Executive Order forming a joint task force on NMWH.

Mrs. Gore, thank you for your interest in NMWH and for the many things you have done, and continue to do, to support women and children. We look forward to speaking with you about the exciting plans underway at NMWH and your potential involvement.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karen Staser".

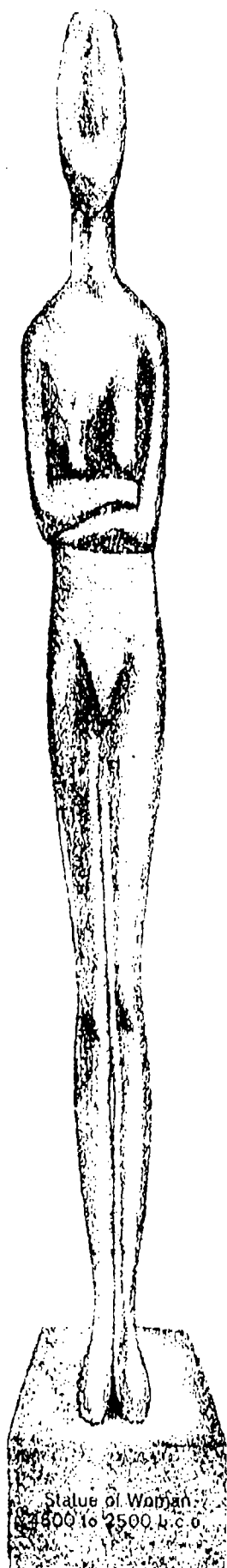
Karen Staser
President, NMWH

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

PROPOSED FORMATION OF PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY (NMWH)

- The upcoming rededication of the monument to Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony in the Capitol Rotunda, on June 26, 1997 at 10:30a.m., would be the perfect opportunity for the President to announce a **Presidential Task Force on NMWH** - a Washington, DC, nonpartisan, educational institution whose mission is to preserve and celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of women and restore this heritage to mainstream culture.
- The task force would consist of 25 members - largely private and corporate sponsors and NMWH Board members, with a representative from the Administration, Senate, and House of Representatives. (Suggested nominations are in progress and include notable citizens such as former First Ladies and other leaders in various fields.) Its mission would be to identify a federal site in Washington, DC, gain legislative authorization of the site, help NMWH identify private funds for construction and renovation costs, help develop plans to privately fund yearly operating costs and make nominations to NMWH standing committees.
- This initiative would **reinforce the President's commitment to education, technology, the empowerment of women and children, and the revitalization of Washington, DC.** The museum would be a powerful, positive **legacy of the Clinton Administration.**
- NMWH has hired the international public relations firm of Burson-Marsteller to conduct a **full-scale national publicity campaign** for this historic occasion. 650 seated guests will be in attendance. We are inviting the President, Speaker Gingrich, and the First Lady to participate in the ceremony under separate cover.
- The U.S. House of Representatives sent a formal request to the President to form a **Presidential task force** on the National Museum of Women's History (attached.) It was co-sponsored by U.S. Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Nita Lowey (D-NY), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Connie Morella (R-MD), Marge Roukema (R-NJ), and Nancy Johnson (R-CT.) A similar request has been initiated by the Senate, led by Senators Olympia Snowe, Barbara Boxer, Susan Collins, Diane Feinstein, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Carol Moseley-Braun, and Patty Murray.
- Rep. Carolyn Maloney spoke in person to the President about NMWH and reported that he was "very enthusiastic and supportive."
- The announcement of the joint task force could be made at the Rededication Ceremony in June or on any occasion deemed appropriate by the White House.
- NMWH has a proven track record and broad-based national support. NMWH recently adopted, and succeeded in accomplishing, a 76-year effort to restore the "Portrait Monument" to the Capitol Rotunda. The Museum Raised \$75,000 for relocation costs through a grassroots campaign, and gained the unanimous support of both Houses of Congress, over 80 women's organizations, and major corporations.
- President Carter created a similar council through Executive Order to establish the U.S. Holocaust Memorial and Museum.

303 West Glendale Avenue ~ Alexandria, VA 22304 ENCLOSURE 1
Tel. (703) 299-0552 ~ Fax. (703) 299-0557
staser@ix.netcom.com



Status of Woman:
2400 to 2500 L.C.O.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

The National Museum of Women's History, Inc. (NMWH)

is a Washington D.C. based, nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich heritage of all women, and restoring this heritage to mainstream culture. **Why is it needed?**

- ◆ 52% of our population is female. There is a deeply felt need among girls and women to learn of their own unique heritage and to see themselves reflected with respect in our culture.
- ◆ Except in isolated women's studies programs, women's profound social, economic, intellectual, spiritual, and scientific contributions are under emphasized. The National Museum of Women in the Arts is dedicated solely to women's achievements in the arts. The National Museum of American History is dedicated to the historical development of mankind. Both these institutions recognize the unique agenda to which NMWH is dedicated and are providing active though not financial support to the project.
- ◆ The historic contributions of women to civilization are missing or misunderstood.
- ◆ Knowledge of one's heritage is critical in developing a personal sense of competence and potential.
- ◆ Lack of understanding and appreciation for women's contributions leads to a lack of understanding, value and respect, ... and may invite violence or discrimination against females.
- ◆ NMWH will address these needs by:
 1. profiling the specific *achievements* individual women have made in *every* area of human endeavor and
 2. Exploring and celebrating the *contributions* women have made to community and civilization in their many roles as mother, wife, sister, healer, teacher, and leader.

The first project of the NMWH, the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, demonstrates our grass roots support. This national fund raising campaign was initiated with the help of Senator John Warner to raise \$75,000 to restore the Suffragist Statue of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott to the Capitol Rotunda. With modest publicity, there has been a spontaneous national outpouring of support. The Campaign has raised almost \$50,000, more than half coming from small individual donations. We have also received thousands of letters and calls. Interestingly, we have attracted the support of the male population as well. National women's groups such as the National Federation of Republican Women, the National League of Women Voters, Business and Professional Women, U.S.A., and others are helping, as are the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee. Our corporate sponsors to date are listed on the left. The Campaign is growing fast and continues to attract the attention of the national press.

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Tel. (703) 299-0552 ~ Fax. (703) 299-0557
staser@ix.netcom.com

ENCLOSURE 2



Statue of Woman
4500 to 2500 B.C.E.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

The mission of the National Museum of Women's History is to permanently restore the history of Women to mainstream culture.

The following are just a few examples of facts we should know:

- Among the first world-renowned scientists was Hypatia of Alexandria, born in A.D. 370. She invented the plane astrolabe that could accurately solve problems in spherical astronomy and wrote a thirteen-volume definitive text on algebra entitled Arithmetica.
- In the 11th Century, A.D., Trotula of Salerno, was a pioneer in the field of preventive health. Her texts, Practica Brevis and DeCompositione Medicamentorum, by hand for 400 years and then printed them for another 300 years after that.
- Aphra Behn, born in 1640, dominated the literary world of Restoration England. During her life, she enjoyed the same type of public acclaim that Shakespeare had achieved a generation earlier. She wrote thirteen novels thirty years before Daniel Defoe wrote Robinson Crusoe (generally credited as the first novel). Behn wrote about the horror of slavery and understood and published the same basic women's issues we are still struggling with today.
- Catherine Littlefield Greene, of Georgia, shared the idea for a Cotton Gin with Eli Whitney. She also financed the patent and fabrication. He merely perfected it.
- Ida Wells-Barnett, born in 1862, was an influential African-American journalist and political activist. She exposed lynching as an integral part of racial oppression. She analyzed how the fear of physical violence was used to maintain political and economic control.
- The atomic bomb was made possible by a pacifist Jewish woman. Dr. Lise Meitner was the first to split the atom and coined the discovery "nuclear fission" -- and left the field of atomic physics as soon as the city of Hiroshima was bombed.
- Ada Lovelace designed the prototype computer in ~~1846~~ 1843.
- Admiral Grace Murray Hopper had created the basis of computer software by 1957.
- Gladys Hobby produced the first usable penicillin in the early 1940's.

These examples barely skim the surface of all there is to examine and memorialize about the role of women in every field. A better world awaits the generation that absorbs what women and men have to share about life from a joint perspective.

Holocaust Memorial Council

UNITED STATES CODE

Congressional and Administrative News

96th Congress—Second Session
1980

Convened January 3, 1980
Adjourned December 16, 1980

Volume 1

PUBLIC LAWS 96-188 to 96-460
[94 Stat. pages 1 to 2048]

ST. PAUL, MINN.
WEST PUBLISHING CO.

SESS. Oct. 7

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Oct. 7

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PUBLIC LAW 96-388 [H.R. 8081]: October 7, 1980

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

*For Legislative History of this and other Laws, see Table 1, Public
Laws and Legislative History, at end of final volume*

An Act to establish the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby
established the United States Holocaust Memorial Council (herein-
after in this Act referred to as the "Council"). The Council shall—*

(1) provide for appropriate ways for the Nation to commemo-
rate the Days of Remembrance, as an annual, national, civic
commemoration of the holocaust, and shall encourage and spon-
sor appropriate observances of such Days of Remembrance
throughout the United States;

(2) plan, construct, and oversee the operation of, a permanent
living memorial museum to the victims of the holocaust, in
cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior and other Federal
agencies as provided in section 5; and

(3) develop a plan for carrying out the recommendations of the
President's Commission on the Holocaust in its report to the
President of September 27, 1979, to the extent such recommenda-
tions are not otherwise provided for in this Act.

SEC. 2. (a) The Council shall consist of sixty voting members
appointed (except as otherwise provided in this section) by the
President and the following ex officio nonvoting members:

- (1) one appointed by the Secretary of the Interior;
- (2) one appointed by the Secretary of State, and
- (3) one appointed by the Secretary of Education.

Of the sixty voting members, five shall be appointed by the Speaker of
the United States House of Representatives from among members of
the United States House of Representatives and five shall be
appointed by the President pro tempore of the United States Senate
upon the recommendation of the majority and minority leaders from
among members of the United States Senate. Any vacancy in the
Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-
ment was made.

(b) The members of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council,
as in effect immediately before the date of the enactment of this Act,
are hereby designated as the initial members of the Council. Such
initial members (other than the initial members appointed from the
United States Senate or the United States House of Representatives)
shall serve terms as follows:

- (1) All initial members shall serve until January 15, 1986.
- (2) On January 15, 1986, the terms of ten of such initial
members, as designated in the bylaws of the Council, shall
terminate.
- (3) On January 15 of each year thereafter through 1990 the
terms of ten other initial members, as designated in the bylaws of
the Council, shall terminate.

The terms of the initial members appointed from the United States
Senate or the United States House of Representatives shall expire

U.S. Holocaust
Memorial
Council.
Establishment.
36 USC 1401.
Commemori-
tion.

Memorial
museum.

President's
Commission on
the Holocaust.
GPO Stock No.
052-003-017-
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Membership;
appointment.
36 USC 1402.

Initial members.

Terms.

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P.L. 96-388

LAWS OF 96th CONG.—2nd SESS.

Oct. 7

Construction,
restriction.

fiscal year 1982, and \$850,000 for the fiscal year 1983: *Provided, however,* That notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds authorized herein may be available for construction. Authority to enter into contracts and to make payments under this Act, using funds authorized to be appropriated under this section, shall be effective only to the extent, and in such amounts, as provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

Approved October 7, 1980.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 96-1347, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):

Sept. 23, considered and passed House.

Sept. 24, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Sept. 25, House concurred in Senate amendments.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 16, No. 41:

Oct. 7, Presidential statement.

PULLED

Schedule Proposal

May 28, 1997

__ACCEPT

__REGRET

__PENDING

TO:

Kim Tilley
Patti Solis Doyle
Peg Cusack

FROM:

Maria Echaveste
Minyon Moore

REQUEST:

For the Vice President, First Lady or Mrs. Gore to attend the rededication ceremony of the "Portrait Monument" (Woman Suffrage Statue) in the Capital Rotunda, and announce the formation of the Presidential Joint Task Force on the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH). This event is sponsored by the National Museum of Women's History.

PURPOSE:

- To announce the formation of the Presidential Joint Task Force on NMWH, a Washington, DC, nonpartisan, educational institution whose mission is to restore the rich and diverse heritage of women to mainstream culture; and
- To reinforce the President's commitment to preserve and reintroduce the heritage of all women in our nations mainstream culture, the empowerment of women and children, and the revitalization of Washington D.C.

PARTICIPANTS:

Approx. 200 participants including:
Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich
Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott
President of the NMWH Karen Staser
Other members of Congress
Women leaders, local and national

BACKGROUND:

The Woman Suffrage Statue was dedicated in the Capitol Rotunda in 1921. Within 24 hours of the dedication the statue was moved to the crypt and has remained there for 75 years. Since then three attempts have been made to raise the statue and as of March Congress unanimously agreed to restore the statue of suffragists Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott to the Capitol Rotunda. The statue made it to its final resting place in the Rotunda on Saturday, May 10, 1997.

The Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign is a project of the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH), a Washington DC based, nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich heritage of all women, and restoring this heritage to mainstream culture. The rededication ceremony of the Woman Suffrage Statue would be a perfect opportunity for the announcement of the Presidential Joint Task Force.

The Presidential Joint Task Force would have representatives from the Administration, Congress and NMWH. It's mission would be to identify a federal site in Washington, D.C; gain legislative authorization of the site; help identify private funds for construction and renovation costs, and help develop plans to privately fund yearly operating costs of the museum.

**PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION:**

None.

DATE AND TIME:

June 26th, 1997; 10:30 am.

LOCATION:

United States Capital Rotunda.

**FIRST LADY
REQUESTED:**

YES.

**MRS. GORE
REQUESTED:**

YES.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Maria Echaveste and Minyon Moore.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Open.

CONTACT:

Sondra Seba, Ph. 6-7310.

**ORIGON OF THIS
PROPOSAL:**

The National Musuem of Women's History and the Women's Office.

NATIONAL POLITICAL CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN, INC.

600 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. • Suite 1125 • Washington, D.C. 20037 • (202) 338-0800 • Fax (202) 625-0499

**MEMORANDUM****NATIONAL OFFICERS:****CHAIR**

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SECOND VICE CHAIR

Deborah Lewis

THIRD VICE CHAIR

Nicole McPherson

RECORDING**SECRETARY**

Tahlya R. Nyahuma

TREASURER

Rev. Gloria E. Miller

GENERAL COUNSEL

Maxine Bethel Cade, Esq.

TO:

Sojourner Truth Committee/Supporters

FROM:Dr. C. DeLores Tucker
Chair, National Political Congress of
Black Women, Inc. (NPCBW)

Dr. Janette Hoston Harris

Chair, NPCBW Sojourner Truth Committee

RE:

Sojourner Truth Meeting

DATE:

May 27, 1997

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Please be advised that there will be an important meeting on the Sojourner Truth issue on Tuesday, June 3, 1997 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Mayor's Office Building at 441 4th Street, N.W. in the 10th Floor Conference Room, Room 1030.

Please plan to attend this meeting. We will be discussing strategy now that the Women's Suffrage Statue is in the Capitol Rotunda, as well as a planned protest on June 26, 1997 -- the date that a celebration for the raising of the Women's Suffrage Statue has been scheduled.

It is our position that ANY STATUE REPRESENTING THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE SOJOURNER TRUTH and that the raising of the current Women's Suffrage Statue to the Capitol Rotunda should not be celebrated without Truth's inclusion. Furthermore, a separate statue of Sojourner Truth is unacceptable as is the doctrine of separate but equal enunciated in Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896.

We hope to see you at the meeting, but if you are unable to attend, please send a representative. Also, please feel free to bring your friends and associates with you. We would appreciate your RSVP by telephone or fax by June 2, 1997.

C:/WP51/struth

/20/AM

SUPPORTERS OF THE SOJOURNER TRUTH CRUSADE

May 1, 1997

Over 100 organizations have endorsed our effort, and the following organizations have switched in support from raising the Portrait Monument to join our coalition: African-American Women's Clergy Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, National Council of Negro Women, and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs

ORGANIZATIONS¹

AFGE, Local, 3407
African-American Business Association
African-American Chamber of Commerce
2000 African-American Women
African-American Women's Clergy Association
African Methodist Episcopal Women
AFSCME, Local 2401
Ain't I A Woman, Inc.
All Nations Baptist Church, D.C.
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
American Friends Service Committee
American Women Heritage Society, Inc.
AMO Foundation
A Woman's Point of View (Philadelphia)
Austin Business Cluster
Baltimore OIC
Baptist Convention of D.C. and Vicinity
Baptist Ministers Conference of Northern Virginia
Berbure-DuBois Institute
Black Leadership Forum
Black United Fund of Women
Black Women Health Project (Philadelphia)
Black Women United for Action
Black Women's Bar Association
Black Women's Network (Milwaukee)
Black Women's Playwrights
Business Organized to Help
Center for New Black Leadership
CHUMS, Inc.
Coalition of African-American Culture Organization (Pennsylvania)
Coalition of African-American, Inc.
Coalition of Black Trade Union, D.C. Chapter
Coalition of 100 Black Women
Congress of National Black Churches
Congressional Black Caucus Spouses
Correctional Women's Missionary Society of the AME Church
Council of 100
D.C. Commission on Women

D.C. Democratic Women
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Family Research Council
Federally Employed Women
French Caribbean Cultural Organization
First Baptist of Glenarden, MD
Grand Temple Daughters of the Elks
Independent Women's Council
Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Revitalization
J.U.G.S., Inc.
Kings Landing Women's Service Club
Labor Women's Roundtable, AFL-CIO
Links, Inc.
Lullaby Guild
Many Flavors Productions Organizations
Martin Luther King Association for Non-Violence
Martin Luther King Jr, D.C. Support Group
Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture Commission
Metropolitan Democratic Women's Club (MWDC)
Motivation Institute of Philadelphia
NAACP Ad Hoc Labor Committee
NAACP, D.C. Chapter
NAACP, Prince William County
National Association of Black County Officials
National Association of Black Elected Officials
National Association of Black Women Attorneys
National Association of Colored Women's Clubs
National Association for Equal Opportunity
National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs
National Association of Political Women, U.S.A.,
National Association of Student Affairs Professionals
National Association of University Women (Philadelphia)
National Baptist Association, Inc.
National Beauty Culturists League, Inc.
National Coalition of Black Voter Participation, Inc.
National Coalition of Labor Women
National Council on Education and Public Service
National Council of Negro Women
National Federation of Black Women's Business

¹ National Organizations shown in boldface

Owners

National Federation of Democratic Women, D.C.
Chapter

National Negro Publishers Association

National Organization of Black Elected
Legislative Women

National Political Congress of Black Women

National Union of the Homeless

National Women of Achievement, Inc.

Network of Black Women for Justice

Opportunities Industrial Centers

Our Author's Study Club

Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention

Prince George's M.O.M.S

Project 21

Project 2

St. Paul Baptist Church, Capital Heights, MD

Shiloh Baptist Church, Alexandria VA

Sixteenth Street Heights Neighborhood Association,

Sojourner Truth 200th Anniversary committee, Battle
Creek, MI

Sojourner Truth Committee, Northampton, MA

The Gospel Truth of Miami, FL

UNITE, AFL-CIO

United Black Fund

University Church, D.C. Martin Luther King
Association

Unitarian Universalist Church Service Committee

Urban League Guild (Philadelphia)

Ward 8 Tennis Council, Inc.

Washington Conference Branch Women's Mission

Society of 2nd AME (Detroit)

Women in the NAACP (WIN)

Women of the Southern Christian Leadership
Conference

Women at Work

Youth Achievers, Inc.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

INDIVIDUALS¹

Mr. George H. Anderson

MAG Industries

Bishop Virton R. Anderson

World Council of Churches, President

Dr. Candace Ashley, D.V.M.

Animal Clinic of Anacostia

Dr. Denise Bacc

George Washington University

Hon. Cora Masters Barry

First Lady of Washington, D.C.

Ms. Geraldine Boykin

GPE Political Strategists, Inc.

Ms. Meda Chamberlain

NCNW/LA Chapter

Mr. Ralph Clark

Hon. Lois DeBerry

National Conference of State Legislators, Chair

Dr. Janette Houston Harris

Historian and National President,

National Council on Education and Public Service

Dr. Dorothy I. Height

National Council of Negro Women, President

Ms. Beverly Houston

Odyssey Cruises

Ms. Dora McDonald

Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Economist

Mr. John Davidson Miller

descendant of Susan B. Anthony

Ms. Pearl Murphy

Hon. Hazel O'Leary

former Secretary of Energy

Dr. Jewell Prestage

Pratt View Texas A&M University

Ms. Marjorie Richardson & Rev. Peter Ives

Co-Chairs, Sojourner Truth Memorial Statue Committee,
The Committee for Northampton, Massachusetts

Dr. Yvonne Scruggs

Black Leadership Forum

Mr. J. Bradley Sparks

Bishop Imogene Stewart

African American Women's Clergy, National President

Dr. C. DeLores Tucker

NPCBW National Chair

Mr. William Tucker

Bedford-Dubois Institute, Vice Chair

Ms. Patricia Panderburke Ware

Sojourner Truth Crusade Vice Chair

Hon. Mary Burke Washington

Former First Lady, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Grace White Ware

daughter of Celia Strong Dyer suffragist Medea Penn White

Hon. Diane Watson

State Senator, California

Dr. E. Faye Williams-Dail, Esq.

Dell Marketing Group, Inc.

Dr. Nirma Soderkista

President, Lincoln University

¹Affiliations shown only for purposes of
identification.

NATIONAL POLITICAL CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN, INC.

600 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. • Suite 1125 • Washington, D.C. 20037 • (202) 338-0800 • Fax (202) 625-0499



Questions Frequently Asked of the Sojourner Truth Committee

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Rev. Addie Wyatt

THE EFFORT TO RAISE THE VICTORY MONUMENT HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY OPPOSING IT NOW?

The effort to raise the Victory Monument originated in plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment -- on August 21, 1995. African Americans are deeply committed to the vote as the central hynchpin of freedom and citizen's rights, and many prominent African American leaders and groups (including the NPCBW) supported the rededication of the Nineteenth Amendment Victory Monument for which we marched as well. But what is being proposed now reflects a different agenda -- a statue to reflect the women's movement. We do not believe now, nor did we believe then, that the Victory Monument encompasses the work that women of color did under great suffering for women's suffrage, and for equality for working women. The effort to raise the Victory Monument was mounted with the best of intentions, but we must work together to ensure that a statue for all women is placed in the Rotunda.

THERE ARE EFFORTS TO ERECT A STATUE IN HONOR OF SOJOURNER TRUTH IN BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN, AND IN NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS. WHY AREN'T YOU WORKING WITH THEM?

In fact we are. Both groups have endorsed our efforts.

THE VICTORY MONUMENT WAS REMOVED SURREPTITIOUSLY FROM THE ROTUNDA AFTER ITS DEDICATION AND PLACED IN THE BASEMENT -- WHY SHOULDN'T IT SIMPLY BE RESTORED TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS MANY HAVE ARGUED?

The claim that the Victory Monument has a privileged right to display in the Rotunda is false. First, the Victory Monument is not in the basement - it is on the first floor of the Capitol immediately underneath the Rotunda

in a beautiful room called the "Crypt" which, as one of the building's principal display areas, is a featured stop on the official U.S. Capitol tour. Second, the Victory Monument was given to Congress by the National Women's Party with a guarantee that it would be removed from the Rotunda immediately after the dedication ceremony on February 15, 1921 (It was moved to the Crypt on February 17th).

SOJOURNER TRUTH WAS NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT TO THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT. WHY SHOULD SHE BE ON A STATUE WITH ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, SUSAN B. ANTHONY AND LUCRETIA MOTT?

Sojourner Truth is listed in every history of the suffrage movement even that edited by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Matilda Joselyn Gage in their History of Woman Suffrage (published in 1881). Truth never learned to read and write; unlike the more privileged suffragists, we do not have her own written words to study. There is dispute over her wording in the famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech she gave in Akron, Ohio in 1951 -- but no one disputes that she gave it and doing so saved the meeting from disaster. In her time, few could read and write -- it was her unparalleled speaking ability (she was bilingual in Dutch and English) that convinced many to support women's rights. Truth, like her fellow suffragists, started by working for abolition, and spurned all inherent right of privilege; more broadly than other prominent advocates of women's suffrage, she argued for working class women. Supporting herself as a domestic, Truth contributed a unique vision of equality, no doubt arising from her travels as an abused former slave whose own children remained in slavery after her own emancipation.

THE STATUE MAY BE HISTORICALLY INACCURATE. BUT THAT WAS JUST THE WAY THINGS WERE DONE THEN. WHY CAN'T WE JUST LET PAST HISTORY SPEAK FOR ITSELF AND USE A PLAQUE EXPLAINING THE ISSUE AS AN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY? AFTER ALL, THERE SHOULD BE A STATUE OF A WOMAN IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA.

We agree that there should be a statue for women in the Rotunda, and it is true that the Victory Monument reflects a racist era where segregation was institutionalized. But this only means that contributions of African Americans were not recorded -- It does not mean that African Americans did not work for suffrage. Not only was Sojourner Truth a suffragist, so, too, were many African American women, including the Delta Kappa Theta sorority which marched in the 1913 suffrage parade during Woodrow Wilson's inauguration demanding suffrage for women. All women's groups marched in alphabetical order -- but the Delta's were asked to march at the rear, behind the "Z's". They demanded their proper place, and as a result, marched with the "D's". To erect this status to represent all women's suffrage endorses racism and separatism. The exclusion

of women of color is not history -- it is an inaccurate portrayal of history.

DESPITE ITS FLAWS, THE VICTORY MONUMENT WAS DEDICATED IN HONOR OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT, AND AS SUCH HAS A UNIQUE CLAIM TO BE THE WOMAN'S STATUE.

While the Victory Monument has served as a rallying point for feminists, it is also the personal vision of one woman's view of feminism -- Adelaide Johnson. Known as the "Sculptress of the Woman's Movement," Johnson, in the words of Edith Mayo, an art historian who has studied her work, had a lifelong ambition "to place such a monument in the Capitol" and her art "was a political statement of her feminism." The statue was not commissioned by the leaders of the women's movement; it was instead promoted by Johnson first with the National American Women's Suffrage Association, and then later with NAWSA's rival, the Woman's Party, after a bitter break with Susan B. Anthony who strongly opposed the placement of her statue in the Capitol.

ISN'T THIS JUST ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT "POLITICAL CORRECTNESS" OR IDENTITY POLITICS -- AN EFFORT TO ENSURE DIVERSITY IN AN HISTORICAL ART OBJECT?

No, it is not -- it is an effort to represent history accurately and do the right thing. Over 100 organizations have endorsed our position, including the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (Susan B. Anthony was a Unitarian, and the Akron speech was given at a Universalist Church) and the American Society of Friends (Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were Quakers) both endorsed our position, as well as contributors to the Suffrage Statue Campaign and descendants of Susan B. Anthony. It is our position that any statue representing the women's suffrage movement should include Sojourner Truth.

THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE HAS PROPOSED THAT A SEPARATE STATUE OF SOJOURNER TRUTH BE PLACED ALONGSIDE THE VICTORY MONUMENT IN THE ROTUNDA. WHY ISN'T THIS ACCEPTABLE?

In 1954, the Supreme Court declared that separate is always, unequal is Brown v. Board of Education. This is the foundation of a more just society -- that our children learn from the very first that segregation is wrong even if the quality of the materials is the same. Art is symbolic; the placing of a separate statue recreates the discredited, racist history of "separate but equal". Surely this is not the message we wish America's schoolchildren to see when they visit the nation's capitol.

NATIONAL POLITICAL CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN, INC.
600 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. • Suite 1125 • Washington, D.C. 20037 • (202) 338-0800 • Fax (202) 625-0499**20 REASONS TO OPPOSE CELEBRATION OF
THE PORTRAIT MONUMENT WITHOUT THE
INCLUSION OF SOJOURNER TRUTH**

1. The Portrait Monument excludes Sojourner Truth who is widely acclaimed by scholars and students of the women's movement as a nineteenth century leader, suffragist, and fighter for equal rights for all.
2. H. Con. Res. 216 (passed by the House on September 26th, 1997 and the Senate on September 27th, 1997, with no hearing or reports or floor debate) misrepresents the suffrage movement by presenting Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony as the only "pioneers" worthy of recognition "in the movement for women's suffrage and the pursuit of equal rights.
3. Sojourner Truth was a national leader who traveled throughout the United States on behalf of women's suffrage and equality.
4. The goal of placing a statue in the Rotunda honoring women is a laudable one— but the Portrait Monument is controversial and will serve as a divisive symbol.
5. Susan B. Anthony herself objected to the display of the statue in the Capitol (preferring instead the Library of Congress)— sparking a bitter break between the National American Women's Suffrage Association and Adelaide Johnson, the sculptor of the Portrait Monument, who then took her work to the rival National Women's Party.
6. The Portrait Monument has been defaced as sacrilegious— it was inscribed with a statement that many people of faith (including suffragists like Sojourner Truth who found inspiration in their faith) found offensive — and no display of the statue can be historically valid without reviving this controversy.
7. The size of the Portrait Monument has forced the removal of the statue of Roger Williams, a noted defender of religious freedom from the Rotunda (It is now located in an area of the Capitol not accessible to the public).

8. **The Portrait Monument is historically inaccurate in excluding Sojourner Truth because she worked with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott for suffrage— the purpose of placing works of art in the US Capitol is to serve as an educational display for future generations.**
9. **The Portrait Monument is a notoriously unattractive statue— often referred to as "Three Ladies in a Bathtub" that risks bringing ridicule on the women's movement.**
10. **The Portrait Monument is a large 13 ton statue that will look out of place among the refined statues already on display in the Rotunda, and some fear that the weight of the statue will damage the Capitol Building if placed on the second floor in the Rotunda.**
11. **To display a separate statue of Sojourner Truth is an affront to all Americans — including the early women suffragists who began in the abolition movement— who oppose the discredited separation of whites and blacks known as "separate but equal" in established law in the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision until overturned in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.**
12. **The women's movement must make visible what has become invisible today—the continuing exclusion and denial of the work of women of color to women's suffrage. In 1995, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was refused permission to march in the 75th Anniversary recreation of the 1913 suffrage march on the grounds that the Deltas had not marched in 1913. In a humiliating effort to reclaim their rightful place, the Deltas had to obtain proof from the National Archives to be permitted to march in 1995. The dedication of the Portrait Monument on February 16, 1921 (Susan B. Anthony's birthday) was made by Jane Adams saying that *"We are solemnly gathered here to place a significant milestone on the long road of self-government which has widened to include one enfranchised group after another. Now at last the women are coming into their own. None have worked more eagerly than women and their victorious banner along is free from the stain of blood"*. In 1997—as in 1995 and 1913 marches and in the 1921 statue dedication, the movement remains stained with racism— this must not be the legacy that we leave to our children.**

13. **No private funds should dictate the display of any art or other object in the US Capitol because this sets a dangerous precedent for private influence in the people's house.**
14. **The Sojourner Truth Crusade has been endorsed by prominent academics and citizens including some descendants of Susan B. Anthony and contributors to those supporting the Portrait Monument.**
15. **The more than 100 organizations who have endorsed the Sojourner Truth Crusade deserve a hearing before the Congressional Women's Suffrage Commission who will decide on a permanent statue.**
16. **The National Women's Party in donating the statue to Congress, agreed to arrange for the removal of the Portrait Monument from the Rotunda immediately after the public dedication ceremony to the crypt, where it has been on continuous display since 1921.**
17. **The Portrait Monument is not in the basement; it is displayed on the first floor of the Capitol in a prominent display area.**
18. **To put the Portrait Monument on display in the Rotunda for one year is silly and a waste of public resources— the Congressional Women's Suffrage Commission should recommend a permanent statue honoring women in the Rotunda. Further, moving such a large statue increases the risk that the Portrait Monument might suffer serious damage.**
19. **Should the Portrait Monument be moved, it should be placed in a display (in a women's art museum or a women's history museum such as proposed by the private Suffrage Statue Commission headed by Karen Staser) where it's significance and history may be properly displayed in the context of the women's movement.**
20. **The Suffrage Committee raising funds has already acknowledged that Sojourner Truth should be included— the major dispute is how this should be accomplished.**

June 3, 1997

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SOJOURNER TRUTH



LET US ALL JOIN IN SUPPORTING THE SOJOURNER TRUTH CRUSADE

If Sojourner Truth were alive today, she would be raising "holy hell" over being slighted in the placing of a so-called "Suffrage Statue" in the Rotunda of the U. S. Capitol.

In her spirit, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, president-founder, National Political Congress of Black Women, has aroused and mobilized more than 100 organizations, including some White groups, in rightful indignation over the efforts of a White feminist group to move a monument to women's suffrage from the crypt area of the U. S. Capitol, where it has been for 76 years, and place it in the Rotunda without the full representation of Sojourner Truth.

At a packed press conference on Capitol Hill this past week, an angry Dr. Tucker said, "The history of Sojourner Truth's contributions to the suffrage movement are well-documented. There was no voice more eloquent than hers. She was left out of history and betrayed then. And now, on the eve of the 21st century, they are trying to leave her out of history and betray her again. But I say to you this day and in the hallowed halls of Congress that this charade shall not stand. There is much talk (since we raised the issue) about doing a separate statue of Sojourner Truth. On the surface, that sounds like a noble gesture. But to me, it is nothing but the separate but equal doctrine that ushered in the 20th century."

We emphatically agree with Dr. Tucker, the National Political Congress of Black Women and the more than 100 other organizations which have joined this campaign. Those familiar with history know that Sojourner Truth discovered the new women's movement in 1850. Ms. Truth developed a relationship with Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, whose profiles are projected on the monument. It was at the second Women's Rights Convention that Ms. Truth delivered her famous "Ain't I A Woman" speech in 1851.

We call upon our friends in the U.S. Congress to understand clearly the principles involved in this Sojourner Truth crusade, and that is that American history has to be inclusive and representative of the contributions of all Americans. There should not be a question in the minds of any members of the U.S. Congress that Sojourner Truth is a legend and symbol of one of the most courageous women fighters in American history for the emancipation of both Black slaves and women of all colors from second class citizenship. In this fight, justice will not be denied!

The AFRO-American Newspapers and other members of NNPA, the trade association of the Black press, are proud to be a part of this crusade in the spirit and legacy of Sojourner Truth.

Suffrage statue in Rotunda still being opposed

By Robin Leary
Tribune Staff

Despite the Woman's Suffrage Statue being moved to the Capitol Rotunda on Saturday, women's groups have vowed to continue their fight until Sojourner Truth is also included with the three other white suffragists honored by the statue.

"Since it has been moved, we intend to make sure that there will be no celebration of any statue symbolizing the suffrage movement without honoring its chief advocate and spokesperson Sojourner Truth," said Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, national chair of the National Political Congress of Black women.

Tucker's group, along with about 150 other religious, political, civic, and civil rights groups have voiced their opposition to the statue, which features Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

State Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-GA, who believes Congress acted too hastily last year in agreeing to raise the Suffragette Statue, introduced legislation last month to have the raising of the statue postponed but it was moved anyway.

While the women behind the campaign have offered to help in seeing that a separate statue of Sojourner Truth be placed in the

(Continued on Page 3-A)

Women's groups vow to continue fight for Truth

(Continued from Page 1-A)

Rotunda, after the statue of the three women is settled, that offer falls short of what some Black women are asking for.

"We won't settle for separate but equal," said Tucker, "and that's all this offer tries to do. We don't want the thousands of Black young children going past that statue to believe that only white women were responsible for getting women the vote, not when we know Sojourner Truth as well as hundreds of Black women were marching and working in the movement too."

Tucker likens this incident to one she said occurred with the Deltas, the second largest sorority of African-American women, in 1995.

"Many of these same women involved with this statue project didn't want the Deltas to march in a parade remembering a 1913 suffrage march and asked them to march in the back of the parade because they thought Black women hadn't participated in the first march," recalled Tucker. "It wasn't until the Deltas, the second largest sorority of Black women in this country, went back to their archives and showed photos of Black women marching that these white women backed away from their position."

Tera Banks, executive director of the Philadelphia Martin Luther King Association for Non-Violence, has also said that having that statue represent the suffrage movement would perpetuate a false history.

"Any statue reflecting the women's suffrage movement must include Sojourner Truth or else it would be perpetuating the omission of African-Americans in history — as this has been a major concern in history throughout the century," said Banks. "These types of omissions have misinformed not only Americans, but people throughout the world about the value and contributions of African-Americans."

As for what can be done now that the Woman's Suffrage Statue is in the Rotunda, Tucker said that she and others are working on plans to prevent any celebration of the statue. Tucker declined to say whether she and opponents would protest at any planned celebration of the statue.

National Museum of Women's History

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TALKING POINTS ON RETURN OF "PORTRAIT MONUMENT" TO ROTUNDA AND NATIONAL OUTREACH OF STATUE CAMPAIGN

219-7971

The National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) has requested the date of June 23 or June 24, 1997 for the rededication ceremony of the "Portrait Monument" in the Capitol Rotunda.

BACKGROUND

- The "Portrait Monument" was dedicated in the Rotunda on Feb. 15, 1921 but within 24 hours Congress moved it into a storage room in the Crypt and removed its gold-gilt inscription. After four failed legislative attempts to return the monument to the Rotunda (1928, 1932, 1950 & 1995), Congress unanimously passed legislation to do so in September, 1996.
- The "Portrait Monument" honors Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony for their leadership in the woman suffrage movement - a 72 year struggle for the right to vote for the majority of citizens in the United States. (More citizens were enfranchised through this bloodless revolution than through the Revolutionary War or the Civil War.) This statue honors all women. As documented, the artist deliberately left an unfinished portion to symbolize all the women who fought for women's right to vote and those in the future who would continue the fight for justice and equality for all.
- For the past 76 years citizens have fought to return the statue of Mott, Stanton, and Anthony to its rightful place in the Rotunda where we honor the most significant leaders of our representative democracy.
- The last endeavor to return this statue was led by NMWH's National Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign. We gained the unanimous support of both Houses of Congress, 80 organization's, and thousands of individuals, and raised \$75,000 for relocation costs.

Among the 80 organizations supporting the Campaign were:

Association of American University Women
African-American Women's Clergy Association

Black Women's Agenda
Business and Professional Women, USA
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (African-American org.)
Democratic National Committee
National Association of Colored Women's Clubs
National Association of Commissions for Women
National Council of Negro Women
National Federation of Republican Women
National League of Women Voters
National Museum of Women in the Arts
National Women's History Project
Republican National Committee
Republican Network for Women

Congressional Supporters include:

Speaker Newt Gingrich, Sen. Trent Lott, Sen. Tom Daschle, Rep. Dick Gephardt, Sen. Barbara Boxer, Sen. Diane Feinstein, Sen. Sheila Frahm, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Sen. Patty Murray, Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, Sen. Olympia Snowe, Sen. Ted Stevens, Sen. John Warner, Rep. Jennifer Dunn, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Rep. Nita Lowey, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Rep. Susan Molinari, Rep. Connie Morella, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, Rep. Marge Roukema, and Rep. Maxine Waters.

- Under the direction of House Concurrent Resolution 216, all contracts with vendors to move the statue have been signed and are being implemented.
- There are no cancellation clauses in the contracts. The National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) is liable for the full amount of the contracts arranged by Congress.
- The National Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign made an inclusive and diverse outreach to women's organizations across the nation to gain their support. The National Political Congress of Black Women (NPCBW) and their President, C. DeLores Tucker, were formally invited to join this endeavor on three occasions during the two year campaign. Although they had ample opportunity to raise their concerns, they waited until one month after the legislation had passed and contracts had been signed to demand that the "Portrait Monument" not be raised unless Sojourner Truth was carved into it.
- NMWH has surveyed our supporters and found that they want Congress to proceed with the rededication of the "Portrait Monument," incorporating recognition of Sojourner Truth into the ceremony, and to support legislation for a statue of Truth. None of the organizations have withdrawn their support for returning the "Portrait Monument" to the Rotunda. NPCBW is the only group who has raised any objection.

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- NMWH has met with Dr. Tucker twice in a good-faith attempt to address their concerns. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton is now interceding on our behalf.
- As explained to Dr. Tucker, NMWH cannot absorb the financial damages it will incur should we break our contracts and cancel the rededication ceremony.

So far, NPCBW has rejected the following proposal:

1. Support legislation to commission statue of Sojourner Truth or one with all four suffragists and make the announcement of the legislation at the historic rededication ceremony.
2. Have a bust of Sojourner Truth present at Ceremony.
3. Recreate one of Sojourner Truth's famous speeches or some other dramatic event at the ceremony.
4. Add a description of Sojourner Truth's contributions to the plaque accompanying "Portrait Monument" in the Rotunda.
5. Nationally publicize Truth's contributions along with Mott, Stanton, and Anthony prior to and at rededication ceremony, and in the printed program.
6. Ask Dr. Tucker to speak at the ceremony.

Recognizing the historical importance of Sojourner Truth, NMWH will proceed as follows:

- NMWH will profile Sojourner Truth along with Mott, Stanton, and Anthony in a national publicity campaign (through Burson-Marsteller) prior to and during the rededication ceremony of the "Portrait Monument," and in the printed program.
- NMWH has commissioned a bust of Sojourner Truth to be on display during the rededication ceremony and, if accepted, to be donated to Congress.
- NMWH supports legislation now being drafted by the Congressional Women's Caucus to commission a statue of Sojourner Truth and has invited Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton to make an announcement at the rededication ceremony.
- NMWH has invited Dr. Dorothy Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women, the most prominent African-American women's organization, to speak at the rededication ceremony.

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SPECIAL NOTE:

- Mott, Stanton, and Anthony were prominent abolitionists. Mott and Stanton actually met in London in 1840 at the World Anti-slavery Convention. (Newlywed, Stanton and her husband were such staunch abolitionists that they incorporated their honeymoon into attending this convention.)
- Having participated fully in the American abolition movement, Mott and Stanton were stunned to learn that they could not attend the 1840 World Anti-slavery Convention because they were women. They discussed the fact that they had barely more legal standing than the slaves they were trying to free and that they should devote some of their energies to women's rights.
- The seeds of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY were planted that day. Mott and Stanton organized the convention and Stanton authored and delivered the famous Declaration of Sentiments. Anthony joined them two years later. All three devoted the rest of their lives to leading the woman suffrage movement.
- Sojourner Truth was a prominent abolitionist, suffragist, and preacher. After the Civil War she worked for freedmen's relief in Washington, D.C., and for their resettlement in Michigan and New York. She fought against discrimination in public transportation, developed and lobbied for a plan to resettle freedmen in the West at government expense and supported the Kansas exodus, a spontaneous movement of thousands of freedmen from the South.
- Sojourner Truth made her famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech at the 1851 Akron, Ohio Women's Rights Convention. Nell Irwin Painter, African-American historian and biographer of Sojourner Truth, makes the following comments about the event in her recent book, *Sojourner Truth: A Life, a Symbol*, on page 129:

"Contrary to legend, Truth had not braved a hostile white crowd, for the crowd was friendly. She had not stopped a malicious male attack on women, for the men supported women's rights. Nor had she saved a mass of cowering white women, for the women spoke with confidence. But Truth did see her presence in the meeting as a rousing success. Writing to her friend Amy Post, she said she had met 'plenty of kind friends just like you & they gave me so many kind invitations I hardly knew which to accept first.'"
- Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton and other historians feel that honoring Sojourner Truth only as a suffragist diminishes the breadth of her contributions to America.
- The mission of the National Museum of Women's History is to restore the rich and diverse heritage of women to mainstream culture. We look forward to continuing our work to herald Sojourner Truth and other important African-American suffragists, as well as the profound multi-cultural contributions of women throughout the world.