

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS
Congressional Papers Roundtable
Newsletter
JULY 1999

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Note from the Chair

16 July 1999

Dear Colleagues:

Our Congressional Papers Roundtable meeting in Pittsburgh will be on Thursday 26 August 1999 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. As I reported in our Feb. newsletter, Mike Gillette, director of the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives, and Herb Hartsook, curator of Modern Political Collections at the University of South Carolina, have agreed to speak on fund-raising for archival projects. Herb has been very successful at persuading donors to provide monetary support when donating their papers, and Mike has successfully solicited corporate support for a documentary source book highlighting documents from the Center for Legislative Archives. I am looking forward to the meeting in Pittsburgh and hope to see many of you there.

There is a new development in the Office of the House Clerk. Cynthia Miller recently accepted a position as the archivist on Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's staff, and she will be leaving the Clerk's Office. This is great news for Cynthia, and we wish her well. The down side to this is that it leaves the Clerk's Office without a professionally trained archivist. Cynthia had served as an ex officio member of the CPR Steering

Committee, representing the Legislative Resource Center of the House of Representatives. The Roundtable will have to decide who will replace her.

On a slightly different note, as chair of CPR, I wrote the new House Clerk, Jeff Trandahl, in March [see text of letter below]. I asked him to reconsider the reorganization undertaken by his predecessor, Robin Carle, and to restore the staff position of assistant historian -- the position held by a trained archivist. I did not receive an answer to my letter.

I wish to congratulate Mark Greene, our past chair, who has been elected to the SAA Council. Each Council member serves as a liaison to several SAA groups, and Mark will serve as the liaison with CPR.

I hope that all members have returned the Roundtable preservation survey mailed this spring. Jeff Suchanek and Mark Greene will present the results of the survey at our annual meeting. The agenda for the CPR meeting is still open. So far the agenda includes the election of new officers, an update on the tax status of restricted collections, the CPR preservation survey, and announcements relating to other sessions which may be of interest to the CPR membership. If there is anything that someone would like to see added to the agenda, please e-mail me at . I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting.

See you in Pittsburgh,

Claudia Anderson
Chair

Roundtable Business

SESSIONS OF INTEREST AT SAA

The following sessions at the Pittsburgh meeting may be of interest to CPR members:

Session 26: "Web Sites, Electronic Finding Aids, and the Archival Researcher," Aug. 27 (Fri.), 12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. One of the panelists, Burt Altman, will present findings from a user survey that was conducted when planning the POLARIS (Pepper Online Archival Retrieval Information System) project for a contemporary congressional collection, the Claude Pepper Papers.

Session 36: "Archival Entrepreneurs: Donor Support for Archival Collections," Aug. 28 (Sat.), 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Panelists will discuss donor funding for archival activities. This session will complement the presentations that Mike Gillette and Herb Hartsok will be making at the CPR meeting.

CANDIDATES FOR CPR OFFICE

Vice Chair/chair Elect:

1. James Edward Cross, Manuscripts Archivist, Special Collections-Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson University.
2. Cynthia Pease Miller, Archivist, Office of Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Steering Committee (Two to be elected):

1. Ben Rogers, Archivist and Collections Manager, Baylor Collections of Political Materials.
2. Burt Altman, Librarian/Archivist, Claude Pepper Library, Florida State University.
3. Karyl Winn, Curator of Manuscripts and Acting University Archivist, University of Washington.

Other candidates will be announced at the CPR meeting in Pittsburgh on 26 Aug.

House Legislative Resource Center

THE CHAIR'S LETTER TO THE HOUSE CLERK

Below is a copy of the letter that Claudia Anderson sent to the House Clerk. She has not received a response.

March 18, 1999

Honorable Jeff Trandahl
Clerk, U. S. House of Representatives
H-154, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Trandahl:

As Chair of the Congressional Papers Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists, I am writing to ask you to reassess the elimination of the position of assistant historian which occurred in the Clerk's Office early last year. The membership of the Congressional Papers Roundtable is composed of archivists representing institutions which house the papers of members of Congress. Our organization has a strong interest in the reinstatement of the position of assistant historian. The assistant historian has historically been a trained archivist who worked to ensure that the records of the House and the papers of individual members were saved and preserved.

At the time of the reorganization in the Clerk's Office, my predecessor as Chair, Mark Greene, as well as a number of the other members of the Congressional Papers Roundtable, wrote Robin Carle in support of the assistant historian's position. The letters outlined our concerns that the lack of an experienced and professional archivist would have serious repercussions for the preservation of the history of the House of Representatives. As the records of the House and the papers of its members become more complex and voluminous, the need for a staff member with archival and records management expertise has become more and more important. During the year since the reorganization in the Clerk's Office, the absence of a trained archivist to facilitate the transfer of members' papers to depositories, to offer advice to members on the management of their files, and to ensure House records are properly preserved and transferred to the Center for Legislative History at the National Archives has been apparent.

Members of the Congressional Papers Roundtable are aware that the papers of several defeated or retiring House members have been inadvertently destroyed by the House member's Washington staff before being transferred to a depository. One case in point is that of the Rep. Scotty Baesler (D-KY), whose Washington office staff destroyed a majority of his papers before sending them to a depository because there was no one in the Clerk's Office to advise them on what to do with the material. Until last year, the assistant historian acted as a liaison between congressional staffs and the institutions which members of Congress had selected to receive their papers. The assistant historian served as an important link in the management, preservation, and processing of members' papers.

On behalf of the Roundtable and the institutions that collect and make available modern political collections, I again ask you to restore the position of assistant historian in the Clerk's Office. Making the history of the House of Representatives available to the public is important to our citizens and is necessary

for the proper functioning of our democratic process. Without a trained archivist in the Clerk's Office, adequate preservation of this history is at risk.

Sincerely,

Claudia Anderson
Chair

Senate Historical Office

ONLINE ACCESS TO SENATE ORAL HISTORIES

Since 1976, the Senate Historical Office has conducted oral history interviews with former senators and retired members of the Senate staff. Both biographical and institutional in scope, these interviews include personal recollections of careers within the Senate and discussions of how Congress has changed over the years.

During the week of 26 May 1999 with the online publication of a 1989 interview with Sen. George A. Smathers (D-FL), the Historical Office initiated a project that will eventually provide online access to its complete oral history series.

George A. Smathers served two terms in the U. S. House Representatives (1947-1951) and three terms in the Senate (1951-1969). He defeated incumbent Rep. Pat Cannon (D-FL) in the Democratic primary of 1946. Four years later, he unseated Sen. Claude Pepper (D-FL) in a legendary primary campaign. During his Senate career, Smathers chaired the Democratic Campaign Committee, belonged to the Democratic Policy Committee, and served as secretary of the Democratic Conference. He held seats on the Commerce, Finance, and Foreign Relations Committees, among others. Smathers witnessed the political evolution of the South and the Senate on civil rights legislation. Following his retirement from the Senate, Smathers returned to the practice of law in Miami and Washington, and became a prominent Washington lobbyist.

For more information, click on "Oral History Project" at the Senate Historical Office home page http://www.senate.gov/learning/learn_history.html

For more information about this and other publications of the Senate Historical Office, please contact Betty K. Koed, Assistant Historian, Senate Historical Office, (202) 224-0753.

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR SENATE COMMITTEE RECORDS

Karen Paul of the Senate Historical Office reports that *A Records Management Handbook For United Senate Committees* has recently been published. It and the pamphlet *U.S. Senate Records: Guidelines for Committee Staff* have been distributed in the Senate. Newly highlighted in the handbook and pamphlet are the rules and statutes governing ownership and disposition of committee records. It is important that all repositories receiving senators' papers be aware that committee records should not be included in such donations. If they are found mixed with the private papers, repositories should contact the Senate Archivist at (202) 224-3351 and arrange for the return of these materials. The following rules and statutes govern Senate records:

Senate Standing Rule XI: Papers Withdrawal, Printing, Reading of, and Reference

1. No memorial or other paper presented to the Senate, except original treaties finally acted upon, shall be withdrawn from its files except by order of the Senate.

2. The Secretary of the Senate shall obtain at the close of each Congress all the noncurrent records of the Senate and of each Senate committee and transfer them to the National Archives for preservation, subject to the orders of the Senate.

Senate Standing Rule XXVI: Committee Procedure

10. (a) All committee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Member serving as chairman of the committee; and such records shall be the property of the Senate and all Members of the committee and the Senate shall have access to such records. Each committee is authorized to have printed and bound such testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the committee.

44 U.S.C. 2118. Records of Congress

The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, acting jointly, shall obtain at the close of each Congress all the noncurrent records of the Congress and of each congressional committee and transfer them to the National Archives and Records Administration for preservation, subject to the orders of the Senate or the House of Representatives, respectively.

2 U.S.C. 72a. Committee Staffs

(d) Recordation of Committee Hearings, Data, etc.; Access to Records

All committee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Member serving as chairman of the committee; and such records shall be the property of the Congress and all members of the committee and the respective Houses shall have access to such records. Each committee is authorized to have printed and bound such testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the committee.

18 U.S.C. 641. Public Money, Property or Records

Whoever embezzles, steals, purloins, or knowingly converts to his use or the use of another, or without authority, sells, conveys or disposes of any record, voucher, money, or thing of value of the United States or of any department or agency thereof, or any property made or being made under contract for the United States or any department or agency thereof;

or Whoever receives, conceals, or retains the same with intent to convert it to his use or gain, knowing it to have been embezzled, stolen, purloined or converted-

Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both; but if the value of such property does not exceed the sum of \$1000, he shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. The word "value" means face, par, or market value, or cost price, either wholesale or retail, whichever is greater.

18 U.S.C. 2071. Concealment, Removal, or Mutilation Generally

(a) Whoever willfully and unlawfully conceals, removes, mutilates, obliterates, or destroys, or attempts to do so, or with intent to do so takes and carries away any record, proceeding, map, book, paper, document, or other thing, filed or deposited with any clerk or officer of any court of the United States, or in any public office, or with any judicial or public officer of the United States, shall be fined not more than \$2000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

(b) Whoever, having custody of any such record, proceeding, map, book, document, paper, or other thing, willfully and unlawfully conceals, removes, mutilates, obliterates, falsifies, or destroys the same, shall be fined not more than \$2000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both; and shall forfeit his office and be disqualified from holding any office under the United States. As used in this subsection, the term "office" does not include the office held by any person as a retired officer of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Center for Legislative Archives

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

Mike McReynolds of the Center for Legislative Archives sends the following news: The Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress met on 14 June 1999 in Senate Room S-211 with Secretary of the Senate Gary Sisco chairing the semiannual meeting. Four new members introduced themselves: James. B. Lloyd, librarian, Special Collections, University of Tennessee; Elizabeth Scott, archivist/librarian, Special Collections, South Dakota State University; Timothy J. Johnson, curator, Special Collections, University of Minnesota; and Susan Palmer, professor, Department of History, Aurora University.

Opening statements were made by Sisco, Clerk of the House Jeff Trandahl, and Archivist of the U. S. John Carlin. Following this was a discussion of the electronic systems development programs in Congress, the renovation of the downtown National Archives building, and the activities of the Center for Legislative Archives.

Sisco and Trandahl both talked about intra-Congress and Internet programs to make congressional documentation flow easily between the House and the Senate, and to the GPO and NARA, and then to the American public. Adrienne Thomas, assistant archivist for administration at NARA, updated the committee on the plans for the renovation of Archives I. Michael Gillette, director of the Center for Legislative Archives, talked about the upcoming Archives I exhibit, "Treasures of Congress." He also reported on foundation grants for funding distribution of the Center's documentary resource packages to high schools and community colleges in Mississippi and Texas. Finally, he related various projects to make the Center's finding aids and records available online.

Richard Baker, historian of the Senate, proposed that the committee issue a third report to Congress on the papers of individual members of Congress. His motion passed, and that report will be due in Dec. 2000.

Institutional News

Since Jan. 1998, the Sen. H. John Heinz III Archives at **Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU) has provided electronic access to portions of the congressional papers of late Sen. John Heinz (R-PA). Named in the senator's memory, the Heinz Electronic Library Interactive Online System (HELIOS) allows researchers to currently search, browse, view and print more than 648,000 digital images (327 c. f.) from the archives.

The following statistics were recorded by our web server. During the course of 1998, remote users initiated 1508 HELIOS sessions. Of those, 1245 were conducted by affiliates outside of CMU (according to IP address). I accounted for 97 of the 1508 sessions while other CMU users initiated 166 sessions. Of the 1508 sessions, we recorded use by 931 unique IP addresses; 806 of those by outside affiliates. We were also able to determine that remote users performed a "Search" or "New Search" on the database 2684 times,

displayed pages 2061 times, and browsed through the collection hierarchy 4193 times. About 88% of the HELIOS sessions lasted less than 15 minutes.

From January to June 1999, remote users initiated 858 HELIOS sessions. Of those, 715 were conducted by outside affiliates (according to IP address). I accounted for 71 of the 858 sessions while other CMU users initiated 72 sessions. Of the 858 sessions, we recorded use by 548 unique IP addresses; 476 of those by outside affiliates. We were also able to determine that remote users performed a "Search" or "New Search" 1507 times, displayed pages 1371 times, and browsed through the collection hierarchy 2833 times. About 89% of the HELIOS sessions lasted less than 15 minutes.

Conclusions: Over the course of the year-and-a-half since the release of HELIOS, we have recorded more than 2300 uses of the Heinz Archives by more than 1400 people (individual patron=IP address). This is an overwhelming amount of use, and it leads me to conclude that using new technology has promoted the use of the collection because it is easier and faster than doing research the "old fashion way." Based on the statistics reported above, only 14% of our users are CMU students, faculty, or staff. That means about 86% is entering the web site from an outside computer or is not affiliated with CMU. This pattern is probably reflective of most congressional collections and their patrons.

What are we to make of the fact that the majority of HELIOS sessions have lasted less than 15 minutes? Is it because the digital version of the archives facilitates searching and browsing in a far superior method than the traditional paper-based archives? Are researchers finding what they want immediately and efficiently? Or is it simply because fellow archivists and librarians have taken a look at HELIOS and navigated through the site for several minutes? Is the use of HELIOS to be accounted for because of a look-see at the whiz-bang technology rather than the contents of the archives? I'd like to think both. -- Ed Galloway

The **Dirksen Congressional Center** has announced 18 winners of its 1999 Congressional Research Awards. Recipients receive funding for scholarly research on congressional leadership. More information on the awards and the recipients appears on the Center's web site <http://www.pekin.net/dirksen/> -- Frank H. Mackaman

Update 2/22/01 : The above address will link to the previous year's list, i.e. as of this update, a list of the winners of the 2000 awards is available.

The processing of the congressional papers of Rep. Guy A. Vander Jagt (R-MI) is continuing at the **Joint Archives of Holland**. Christina Schmidt, an MIS candidate at the University of Michigan, is the second of three summer interns assigned to work on the collection. Two main areas of the collection are being processed this summer: Vander Jagt's congressional bill files and his casework files. Both of these areas contain records that reveal the interests and concerns of the congressman and his constituents, as well as legislation he introduced or co-sponsored. Some of the more prominent topics processed to date are the development of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, issues surrounding the Great Lakes (erosion, high water levels, pollution, etc.), and diabetes legislation. -- Geoffrey D. Reynolds

In April, **Millersville University** dedicated the archives of Bob Walker (R-PA), who served in the U. S. House of Representatives for more than 20 years. Walker was best known as an early and staunch supporter of Ronald Reagan and a leader in the Republican resurgence in 1995. The archives contain more than 200 c. f. of material housed in the university's Ganser Library. Most of the collection is officially open, although

the personal correspondence is closed until April 2009. At the dedication ceremony, Walker said, "My hope is that these archives will help students and scholars, citizens and commentators better understand the joys and the trials of public policy making and the essence of both representing a congressional district and playing a national and international role during changing times." -- *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*

The **Ohio State University Archives** announces the hiring of Jeff Thomas as the John Glenn Archivist. Thomas was previously employed at the Ohio Historical Society, where he had acquired and processed the papers of Sen. Frank Lausche (D-OH) and Rep. Chambers P. Wylie (R-OH). The archives also plans to hire an assistant archivist to help process the Glenn papers.

In May the archives received an additional 100 c. f. of materials from the home of Sen. Glenn (D-OH). This accession included personal correspondence, photographs, other audiovisual items, printed materials, and artifacts. The archives also received materials from the U.S. Astronauts Hall of Fame in Titusville, FL, and NASA's Space Center in Houston. These artifacts and photographs document Glenn's military, NASA, corporate, and U.S. Senate careers, and they had been displayed in temporary exhibits commemorating the senator's 1998 flight aboard the space shuttle Discovery.

Currently, the processing work is focused on artifacts and memorabilia in anticipation of loan requests. To date, approximately 150 c. f. have been appraised and 380 items cataloged in a Microsoft Access database. The archives has digitally photographed all cataloged memorabilia and plans to link the images to the database to allow easy access and minimize handling. Once completed, the database and images will be available to researchers through the University Archives web site. -- Jeff Thomas

The **Carl Albert Center at the University of Oklahoma** announces two new accessions. Added to the existing Carl Albert Collection are 82 c. f. of files and 24 framed photos and memorabilia. Included is a set of pens used to sign the Great Society legislation and given to Carl Albert (D-OK) as a present from President Lyndon Johnson. The Center has also acquired 14 boxes from newspaper reporter Allan Cromley. This collection contains files on Oklahoma's delegation to Congress during the 1950s-1980s. A similar collection, the papers of UPI reporter Harry Culver, was acquired years ago and has recently been processed and made available to researchers.

The Center's web site <http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/> has also expanded. In addition to existing information on resources documenting Native American history and the Great Depression, smaller subject descriptions have been added. New topics include abortion, birth control, migrant labor, and the UN. In addition, the Center has added two folder-level inventories to the site. The inventory to the Legislative Series of the Carl Albert Collection covers Albert's years as Speaker (1971-1976). The complete inventory to the papers of Sidney Clarke (R-KS), nineteenth century Kansas congressman and early white Oklahoma settler, has also been included.

Two new exhibits are on display at the Center. "Those Gallivanting Politicians: The Spectacle of Political Travel" explores the history of congressional junkets. "Rated G: Hollywood Goes Political" looks at the attraction between movie stars and politicians. In progress are two exhibits for display and touring in 2000. One concerns women and Congress and the other the history of the Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives. -- Todd Kosmerick

The Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library at **Princeton University** continues processing on the papers of Sen. Bill Bradley (D-NJ). Most of the collection documents Bradley's 18 years in the Senate. In the past

year significant progress has been made on the 2100 c. f. collection, which is being processed by project archivist Kristen Turner and her team of one full-time assistant and four students. They have surveyed more than 600 c. f. The press releases, speeches, and most of the legislative staff records have been arranged and described to the folder level. Work also continues on the administrative staff records. In the fall, work will begin on the project files (community case files) and the remaining boxes. -- Kristen Turner

The papers of Rep. Eligio (Kika) de la Garza (D-TX) have been acquired by the **University of Texas Pan-American**. The university received 717 boxes of archival materials, 588 from the congressman's Washington, DC, office and 129 from his McAllen, TX, office. Materials include legislative documents, constituent inquiries and requests, photographs, maps, trophies, plaques, and awards. -- *College and Research Library News*

Tulane University has received the congressional papers of Robert Livingston (R-LA), representative of the First Congressional District from 1977-1999. Livingston, who received a BA and JD from Tulane, was Speaker-designate and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. The speeches, interviews, press releases, newsletters, and other public documents will be open once they are processed. The remaining papers are restricted for 10 years. Tulane University Library has made a special allocation for the rapid processing of Livingston's papers. -- Bill Meneray

General News of Interest

SENATE BILL AFFECTS TAXATION OF HISTORICAL DONATIONS

Page Putnam Miller, director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCC), recently wrote to NCC archival repositories:

I wish to bring to your attention S. 217. This is a bill that would have the most direct effect on archivists for it deals with the tax implications for donors of historical materials. In most cases charitable gifts of historical papers do not have a gift tax or estate tax consequence. However, some estate planning lawyers have concluded that there may be an adverse tax consequence in situations where the donor retains various rights in the papers donated, such as the right to limit or control access for a period of time, for privacy reasons, etc. Retaining some control is perceived by some lawyers as disqualifying for the charitable gift donation. Thus some people who had planned to donate papers are not doing so for fear they will have to pay taxes on the donation. As Sen. Moynihan (D-NY), who introduced this legislation along with Sens. Inouye (D-HI) and Wellstone (D-MN), made clear in his introductory remarks, many people would never donate papers if some restrictions were not permitted and many lawyers do not see these restrictions as disqualifying for gift and estate charitable contributions. But since some lawyers do perceive a problem, Sen. Moynihan has introduced this bill to clarify the issue that qualifying rights for the charitable tax law would include the right to control access to the materials for a period of time not to exceed 25 years after the death of the person who created the materials. [Additional information on the bill can be found in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, 19 Jan. 1999, pp. S663-5, and the Library of Congress Thomas web site (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>)]

This bill will probably not be acted on as a stand alone bill but will be folded into a larger tax bill. Sen. Roth (R-DE), who chairs the Senate Finance Committee that would be considering this provision, has indicated that he would support it as long as the language is tight enough that it cannot be abused.

Moynihan is the ranking minority on this committee. Letters are needed that indicate that this is a perception problem that is resulting in delaying of gifts of historical papers of writers, judges, artists, political leaders, etc. Letters should be sent to: Senators Trent Lott (R-MS), Thomas Daschle (D-SD), William Roth (R-DE), and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY). Address: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 20510.

CYNTHIA PEASE MILLER THANKS CPR

15 July 1999

Dear CPR friends and colleagues,

I have left my position in the Legislative Resource Center, Office of the Clerk, U. S. House of Representatives, to become the archivist for retiring Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. I want to thank the Roundtable as a group and all of you individually for your support for a professional archival position within the House and your encouragement, support, and good wishes for me personally.

Several years ago I served on an SAA task force to study and evaluate SAA's lobbying efforts compared to that of other professional organizations. You all proved that archivists do pull together and lobby for what they believe to be the right action for the profession. While at this point there is no archivist in the House of Representatives, we can hope that the seeds of this effort will eventually bear fruit.

With warmest regards to you all,

Cynthia Pease Miller

RAYBURN MEMORABILIA TO STAY PUT

The 11 May 1999 issue of the *Dallas Morning News* reported on an agreement between the office of Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and the state of Texas allowing the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum to retain control of memorabilia housed there. A spokesman for Hastert stated that the Bonham, Texas, facility could keep the items as long as they are publicly displayed. The memorabilia have been on display since the library in 1957. The University of Texas's Center for American History, which oversees the Rayburn Museum, maintains that the items belong to it and are state property. The Feb. 1999 issue of the *CPR Newsletter* stated that the Clerk of the House had been claiming memorabilia that former Speakers had given to universities and libraries throughout the country.

CONGRESSMAN SPONSORS BILL TO PREPARE A HISTORY OF THE HOUSE

Page Putnam Miller's 9 July 1999 NCC Washington Update reported the following:

On 22 June 1999, John Larson (D-CT) introduced H.R. 2303, a bill that directs the Librarian of Congress to prepare a history of the House of Representatives. Larson, a former high school history teacher and a newly elected member of the House, introduced this bill because of his disappointment as a new member of

Congress with the lack of awareness in the House to its own history. He sees this as a bipartisan initiative and has enlisted 245 cosponsors, including the leadership of both parties.

The bill begins by stating that "subject to available funding," the Librarian is mandated to consult, commission, or engage the services or participation of eminent historians and current members and former members of the House in preparing the history. Additionally the bill specifies that the history should be illustrated and prepared for the general reader as well as members of Congress and their staffs. There is also a section of the bill authorizing the Librarian to expand and update the oral history of the House as told by current and former Members. In carrying out this section, the bill states that the Librarian may enlist the voluntary aid of organizations such as the United States Association of Former Members of Congress or may contract with such organizations for services.

Many in the historical profession are pleased to see a renewed interest in the history of the House of Representatives; however, there is a hope that this move will not preclude efforts to restore the House Historical Office, which was dismantled in 1995. There is also some concern in the historical profession about how this history will be prepared. Just five years ago the Congressional Research Service, which is part of the Library of Congress, prepared a history of the House that was never widely distributed because of its disjointed narrative and its heavy reliance on lists, tables, and charts. Ironically, the House Historical Office was in the process of preparing a history of the House and had completed about one-third of the manuscript at the time the office was disassembled. There is also the question, in light of the library's own budgetary priorities and constraints, of how it would deal with this "unfunded mandate."

U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOST TALKS ON CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

The U.S. Capitol Historical Society plans talks on four congressional leaders for whom Capitol Hill office buildings are named: Joe Cannon, Nicholas Longworth, Richard Russell, and Everett Dirksen. The talks will be held as a Wednesday noontime "Brown Bag Lecture Series" on Aug. 11, 18, and 25, and Sept. 1. The presentation on Cannon will be given by Rod Ross of the Center for Legislative Archives. It is titled "The Chair Recognizes the Gentleman from Illinois: The Career of House Speaker Joseph Gurney 'Uncle Joe' Cannon as Seen through Newspaper Political Cartoons of Clifford Berryman."

BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO ADOPT "NEW" TECHNOLOGY

The 16 June 1999 *Electronic Telegraph* indicated that the British Parliament is considering legislation to preserve official acts on archival paper. Since Henry VII, parchment or vellum has been used. The article is silent on Parliament's use of electronic records.

INTERNET RESOURCES

The fifth release of *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: US Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1873* is now available on the Internet. The Library of Congress's American Memory web site now has 111 volumes of congressional history covering the time period of 1774-1821.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

Note from the Editor

CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - July 1999

Members receiving this newsletter by e-mail are asked to contact the editor if they would like a print version sent to them through U. S. postal mail.

The editor would like to thank all who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. If you have news for the next issue of the Congressional Papers Roundtable Newsletter, please submit it to the editor by 11 Feb. 2000. The next issue will be distributed in Feb. 2000.

If you know of people who would like to join CPR, please have them contact the editor.

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