SENATOR BARRY GOLDBERGER,
"NEED FOR IMMEDIATE PROGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL
AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM"
APRIL 26, 1971
POW DAY IN INDIANA

Mr. BAYH, Mr. President, we have long been concerned for the safety and prompt release of American prisoners of war. Until the President designates a specific day for the withdrawal of American prisoners of war, I feel that the action that would most help these prisoners we must do all we can to focus attention on the plight of POWs, in order to press for their fair treatment.

I have sought to give the problem proper emphasis by speaking out repeatedly on this subject, and I am a co-sponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, a resolution which would create a joint committee to investigate the treatment of POWs.

Today, I wish to share with the Senate a proclamation by the State of Indiana to declare April 28 POW Day in Indiana. I hope this continued concern will bring comfort to both servicemen and their families.

I ask unanimous consent that the proclamation by printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the proclamation was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, nearly 1,600 members of the Armed Forces of the United States are officially listed in Vietnam as prisoners-of-war in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas, these men have suffered and continue to suffer pain, imprisonment, deprivation of their rights, prolonged separation from their loved ones, and the peculiar mental and physical anguish which is the unique lot of the prisoner-of-war; and

Whereas, their wives, children, parents, and other relatives in the United States suffer with them the agony of separation and of loneliness; and

Whereas, these men have carried out, and continue to carry out their duties to their country in accordance with their principles and punit to directions of the American people whom they are defending; and

Whereas, it is entirely just and accord with humanitarian instincts that we, the American people, remember these men, cherish their contributions to our security, and pledge our support to their speedy return to their homes and families;

Now, therefore, I, Edgar D. Whitcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim April 28, 1971, as "Prisoner of War Day" in Indiana, and I urge all citizens to show their respect and concern for these servicemen and to join me in praying for their release.

NEED FOR IMMEDIATE PROGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

Mr. GOLDWATER, Mr. President, on Wednesday of last week, it was my great pleasure to appear before the House Appropriations Committee and to report that I had approved an appropriation of $7 million for the construction of the National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of Natural History, which are two of the most important components of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. President, this Nation has for too long been negligent in providing for a decent and dignified place in which to display our great technological advances in the field of flight, which includes both manned air flight and space exploration. One recent development serves well to illustrate the deplorable delay in embarking upon this project. Only a few weeks ago, I received a letter from the estate of Orville Wright, which informed me that it has been waiting for 23 years now for the construction of a new U.S. National Museum for Air and Space Exhibits. In my testimony before Mrs. Han-

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A new R.A.F. museum is being nearly completed. Also, the Deutsche Museum in Munich contains a huge hall devoted to air and space displays nearly as extensive as our own. For their part, the French have on show in Paris six to ten times as many original aircraft and flight objects as are on exhibit in the Air and Space Museum at Turiin. Even small Switzerland is developing an impressive Museum of Transportation at Lucerne. On the whole, we are behind what the United States now presents in the air and space field.

An American citizen returning from a tour of these museums, astonished in nations one-fourth the size of our own, might easily feel a sense of embarrassment at how his country compares. Why our nation does not even have a permanent home for its collections. We have a small hangar in which aviation exhibits have been kept since 1915 and go far back in the 90-year-old Arts and Industries Building, and that is it.

Madame Chairman, I have just received in the post a most poignant request for construction of a distinctive flight museum. On April 13, I heard from Mr. Harold Miller, who is co-executor of the Estate of Orville Wright. Mr. Miller relates that the Estate only agreed to return the Wright brother's 1903 Kitty Hawk plane from its long exile in honor of England contributing to the Wright's success. But if there would be a second-to-none U.S. Air Museum in which it would be the premier Exhibit, displayed in a setting appropriate to its historic character and merit like the crown jewels.

Mr. Miller adds: "It is now 23 years later. The airplane was on display before Christmas, December 17, 1948, and it is far worse, not better, off than it was when it came here from its 20 years abroad."

Madame Chairman, I think it is high time the American people lived up to their promise to the memory of Orville and Wilbur Wright. As representatives of all citizens, should immediately initiate some program toward the erection of a dignified museum worthy of this country's pioneers of flight.

And for reasons of plain dollars and cents, it looks as if the only way this project can get off the ground is by going through the route of a redesign. Because of a cost of $40 million when the building was first authorized in 1968, I am told the expense would now exceed $60 million.

Madame Chairman, as you may know, the original architect, Gyo Obata, claims it is feasible to redesign the project at a lower cost. In fact, he has estimated the rough dimensions which such a scaled-down building might have.

Mr. Chairman, you may be interested to know the length could be nearly the same, 730 to 780 feet compared with the original 680. The height near the southeast corner is important because this would preserve the opportunity for installing some full-sized rockets or rocket sections inside the building. Most of the reduced scale would come out of the south-west which might be 60 to 190 feet wide compared with 250 feet for the original plan.

While this would mean the floor area would be cut, it has been told the actual exhibition space would be reduced by less than one-fifth, leaving 264,000 square feet. But for this, it is larger than three times greater than the maximum area which could be used for exhibits in the two buildings which presently are being built. And the ground might be broken by sometime in calendar year 1972, construction itself could be held at a cost below $40 million.

Therefore, from what I have learned, the revised plan retains so much of the original form at a lowered cost, I believe it deserves our support.

My only reservation concerns whether it is necessary to obtain reappraisal of the building from all the planning and art and traffic commissions which have a hand in Federal construction. But if these bureaucratic agencies should tend to side-step the issue, I know Congress could sort out this route by enacting overriding legislation or even by returning to the original plan.

Incidentally, I notice the Smithsonian is confronted with exactly this problem in regard to its proposal for changing the location of its museum. According to the Washington Star, the National Capital Planning Commission ordered the revised version to go back for more study and one member of the Commission even appeared ready to reopen the whole issue of whether the museum should have a separate site. I am sure that in the wake of this warning in mind, I hope the Smithsonian will have its ducks in a better row when it undertakes a redesign of its project.

Next, Madame Chairman, I would like to say a few words about the museum's request for additional operating funds. The museum has requested an increase of $105,000 for carrying out its operations in 1972, and I can confirm this amount is honestly required. In fact, even if the full amount of staff and program funds are appropriated, the museum will receive less than 1.7% of the overall Smithsonian budget for salaries and expenses. For example, one-third of the Smithsonian's visitors—4 million persons—this allotment is not at all proportionate to its importance.

Accordingly, it is my sincere hope the Committee will not cut one penny out of its already miniscule allotment.

Madame Chairman, I would like to turn my attention now to the Museum of Natural History. From the early years, when the first Secretary of the Smithsonian, Joseph Henry, made pioneering discoveries in science, the Institution has generally held pure scientific research in high regard. During the middle 30's, however, the Smithsonian's priorities began to shift. As Paul Oehler states in his recent history of the museum, "In contrast, the humanities are demanding an increasing role in Smithsonian programs."

It is during this period that the Museum of Natural History calls back Doctor Richard Cowan, director of the museum, has documented this problem publicly at the House Science and Space Committee this summer.

Doctor Cowan testified that the lack of adequate technical assistance for his scientists results in an almost "criminal mismanagement" of the program. Because highly trained scientists are required to waste their time doing routine chores. He also confided that the employment picture in the museum is not as bright as it was several years ago. Dr. Cowan charged: "The available pairs of both, professional and support, are fewer now than four years ago. His statement was backed up by a spectacle which bedevils among them is the bloating of the museum personnel. This is the staffing level at which the building was designed, to accommodate not its present needs. The building would be very expensive to keep even at its present utilization level.

In addition, Doctor Cowan exposed the severe and sudden drain on his museum's budget caused by an unnecessary museum policy, which makes the museum purchase items that formerly been had to it without cost from the Institution's supply division. Doctor Cowan expressed that now purchase such basic things as storage bottles and cases and some 400 other items which are needed in the conservation and were formerly supplied free to it. Why the museum must even purchase many of its own reference books because the Smithsonian Library will not supply them. I might add, Madame Chairman, that given this odd situation, the Institution's decision to request an increase of far more money for personnel than it did for books at its Library is extremely curious.

Madame Chairman, I can reveal today there is another cost which will be unexpectedly dropped on the museum's hard-pressed budget. From now on the museum must not only pay for support work performed for it by the Smithsonian's Buildings Management Department, but also for the costs of labor! It should be noted, Madame Chairman, that the Buildings Management Department possesses its own separate budget of more than $9 million. Nevertheless, one and a part of the Smithsonian will begin charging all other Smithsonian components for basic work done for them, such as converting office space into laboratory space, moving a desk, or installing a bookcase.

Madame Chairman, the situation has become so bad that I must say that the charge in supply and service practices instituted by the Smithsonian management has cut non-salaried operating funds at the Museum of Natural History by up to a quarter of a million dollars. The loss of funds formerly charged to the Buildings Management Department alone is about $100,000.

Accordingly, Madame Chairman, I hope you will look at the requested increases in the budget of Natural History not only from the perspective of a normal year of decline, but also with the realization the museum has been loaded down by sudden and unexpected expenses for which it has been unprepared.

Madame Chairman, this completes my comments on the Smithsonian's Federal budget. The only solicitation I suggest on the Committee may wish to request a full disclosure from the Smithsonian on its private financing. It is my understanding that the Smithsonian's budget includes its own investments, and grants now return about $18 million annually; and it seems fair to inquire whether this sum is being spent wisely and what the results of these funds? Could more privately funded employees be engaged at units which seriously need them, such as the Air and Space Museum?"