

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.
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House Office Building Project

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Sam Rayburn
M.C.

TEXAS.

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 16, 1960

Honorable Sam Rayburn, Chairman
House Office Building Commission
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I am enclosing a copy of the progress
report on the Additional House Office Building
Project as of September 6, 1960.

Warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

George.

J. George Stewart
Architect of the Capitol

September 6, 1960

PROGRESS REPORT
ADDITIONAL HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING PROJECT

A. ADDITIONAL HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (Harmon, September 16, 1960, Ston and
Arson, Associate Architects)

1. Foundations

- (a) Contractor, McCloskey and Company
- (b) Contract is 87.5% complete as of August 31, 1960
- (c) Status of Work: 66,950 cubic yards of concrete, out of a revised estimate of 70,000 cubic yards, have been poured in pile caps and foundation lugs in all four quadrants of the House Office Building Commission House of Representatives, out of a total of 9,000, have been driven in the Washington, D. C. quadrants; 7,969 pile shells have been filled with concrete.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

2. Structural Steel

I am enclosing a copy of the progress

- (a) Contractor, Bethlehem Steel Company
- (b) **report on the Additional House Office Building**
- (c) No work performed under this contract last month

Project as of September 6, 1960.

3. Superstructure

Warmest personal regards,

- (a) Contractor, McCloskey and Company
- (b) Status of work: The contractor, **Sincerely,** continued to sandblast structural steel columns and beams, place reinforcing steel, set concrete forms for walls, beams, columns and 2nd garage level, and has started the installation of sleeves and inserts for electrical and mechanical installations in the C. W. **J. George Stewart** approximately 918 cubic yards of concrete **Architect of the Capitol** for walls, columns and column base encasements in the west half of the building. The Associate Architect's representative for the superstructure work began his duties in the Architect's Field Office on August 18, 1960.

B. CHANGES, ALTERATIONS AND REMODELING OF NEW HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (Fook and Swanke, Associate Architects)

1. Tunnels

Specifications and contract drawings are undergoing review.

2. Suite Alterations

Contract drawings for Committee Rooms 1324 and 1334 have been reviewed by the Architect of the Capitol and are now being revised by the Associate Architects. Specifications should be ready for the printer early this month.

September 6, 1960

PROGRESS REPORT
ADDITIONAL HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING PROJECT

A. ADDITIONAL HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (Harbeson, Hough, Livingston and Larson, Associate Architects)

1. Foundations

- (a) Contractor, McCloskey and Company
- (b) Contract is 87.5% complete as of August 31, 1960
- (c) Status of Work: 66,950 cubic yards of concrete, out of a revised estimated total of 78,195 cubic yards, have been poured in pile caps, foundation mat, anchor frames and foundation lugs in all four quadrants. 8,066 pile shells, out of a total of 9,000, have been driven in all four quadrants; 7,969 pile shells have been filled with concrete.

2. Structural Steel

- (a) Contractor, Bethlehem Steel Company
- (b) Contract is 50.1% complete as of August 31, 1960.
- (b) No work performed under this contract last month

3. Superstructure

- (a) Contractor, McCloskey and Company
- (b) Status of work: The contractor has continued to sandblast structural steel columns and beams, place reinforcing steel, set concrete forms for walls, beams, columns and 2nd garage level, and has started the installation of sleeves and inserts for electrical and mechanical installations in the S. W. and N. W. quadrants. Approximately 918 cubic yards of concrete have been placed in exterior walls, columns and column base encasements in the west half of the building. The Associate Architect's representative for the superstructure work began his duties in the Architect's Field Office on August 18, 1960.

B. CHANGES, ALTERATIONS AND REMODELING OF NEW HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (Poor and Swanke, Associate Architects)

1. Tunnels

Specifications and contract drawings are undergoing review.

2. Suite Alterations

Contract drawings for Committee Rooms 1324 and 1334 have been reviewed by the Architect of the Capitol and are now being revised by the Associate Architects. Specifications should be ready for the printer early this month.

B. CHANGES, ALTERATIONS AND REMODELING OF NEW HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (cont.)

3. Lower Floor Activities

Work on the Take-out Bar is approximately 99% complete.

It is expected that early next week the Contractor will be given a notice to proceed on the work on the enlargement and improvement of the Post Office facilities.

C. CHANGES, ALTERATIONS AND REMODELING OF THE OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (DeWitt and Hardison, Associate Architects)

No change from last month.

D. SUBWAY TO CAPITOL (Shelton and Stanford, Associate Architects)

The Associate Architects have completed sketch plans, outline specifications, and estimates of cost for the House Office Building Subway and Transportation System. The Associate Architect's recommendation that single 24-passenger cars be used instead of two cars in tandem, as originally proposed, is being studied by the Architect of the Capitol. As soon as a decision has been made in this matter, the Associate Architects will make a final submission of plans, outline specifications, and estimates of cost for review and formal approval.

October 15, 1960

3. Please have indicated that he would correct his story of October 12, 1960, and state the actual conditions as outlined to him by Mr. Campioli.

4. Do have made an investigation or attempt to determine the source of this story of October 15, 1960, but with no results. He knew the source of the information was not the story and all the reporters, photographers, and others in the area were called over telling them that their reporter from "Roll Call".

Honorable James C. Auchincloss, Member
House Office Building Commission
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Uncle Jim:

Reference is made to your letter, received October 14, 1960, relating to an article in the paper about alleged dangerous conditions at the site of the Third House Office Building.

I assume you are referring to the article in "Roll Call" of October 12, 1960, which appeared in the Evening Star August 20, 1960. This article is substantially factual and points up some of the conditions at the site of the Third House Office Building. I assume you are referring to the article in "Roll Call" of October 12, 1960, which appeared in the Evening Star August 20, 1960. This article is substantially factual and points up some of the conditions at the site of the Third House Office Building. I assume you are referring to the article in "Roll Call" of October 12, 1960, which appeared in the Evening Star August 20, 1960. This article is substantially factual and points up some of the conditions at the site of the Third House Office Building.

I was as surprised as you when this item was brought to my attention. The article has no foundation in fact.

The following steps have been taken since publication of this article in "Roll Call":

1. Mr. Nick Gicas, the author of the story, has been in this office; he would not reveal his source of information, of course, but did admit that he did not check the story with me or any of my assistants empowered to give out construction information.
2. Mr. Campioli, Assistant Architect of the Capitol, while meeting with Gicas, explained the exact steps taken to guard against dangers in this construction, which are the customary steps that would be taken by any prudent architect, engineer, or contractor on a project of this nature and magnitude.

Sincerely yours,

J. George Stewart
Architect of the Capitol

cc: Honorable Sam Rayburn, Chairman
House Office Building Commission

October 15, 1960

3. Gicas has indicated that he would retract his story of October 12, 1960, and state the actual conditions as outlined to him by Mr. Campioli.
4. We have made an investigation to attempt to determine the source of this unfounded article, but with no success. We know that no one in authority gave out the story and all our inspectors, photographers, and foremen on the project have denied ever talking with Mr. Gicas or any other reporter from "Roll Call".
5. I am enclosing, herewith, copy of field memorandum of October 13, 1960, from Mr. C. W. Mathews, Assistant Chief Inspector, addressed to Mr. T. L. Pierce, Project Director for the Additional House Office Building Project, which substantiates the information I have given you and also contains the opinion of the contractor's superintendent on the job.

I am enclosing for your information copy of an article by Mr. William A. Millen which appeared in the Evening Star August 24, 1960. This article is substantially factual and points up some of the problems inherent in a project of this nature.

I can assure you that proper engineering and construction methods and techniques are being employed in this work and you need have no cause for alarm as a result of the article appearing in the press. There is no reason to believe that the methods used will cause any delay in the completion of the project.

I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter and enclosures to Speaker Rayburn and Congressman Vinson, as I am sure they will be interested in receiving this report on the Additional House Office Building Project.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. George Stewart
Architect of the Capitol

cc: Honorable Sam Rayburn, Chairman
House Office Building Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO : T. L. Pierce *T. L. Pierce* October 13, 1960

FROM : C. W. Mathews

SUBJECT : Report on investigation to determine upon what basis, if any, an article written by Mr. Nick Gicas and appearing in the newspaper "Roll Call" could have been founded.

The article states that about six weeks ago when the excavation had reached the sixteen foot mark a crack appeared in the bank wall along South Capitol Street. It further states that the blame for the near disaster was because steel bracing was not placed when the excavation had reached six feet.

This article is completely in error in every way.

Some of the steel bracing for South Capitol Street has been in place as long as 22 months and the excavation of 16 feet was completed many months ago. The bracing for South Capitol Street has been designed and checked by our engineers and the Contractor's engineers. It has been installed at the proper time and in the proper way. It is true that there have been minor slides within the building limits, but the necessary protective measures were taken immediately. The last one of these slides was approximately a year ago.

A close check has been made with the inspectors assigned to the foundation and the bank along South Capitol Street. There has not been any evidence of any cracking or movement in the bank.

Mr. Howard Massey, Superintendent for the McCloskey Company, was interviewed and he stated that there was absolutely no truth to the newspaper article. He further stated there has been no cracking or movement in the South Capitol Street bank other than what is normally to be expected.

*House of
Bill*

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 15, 1960

Honorable Sam Rayburn, Chairman
House Office Building Commission
United States Capitol
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

Congressman Auchincloss wrote to me recently about an article in "Roll Call" concerning alleged dangerous conditions at the site of the Third House Office Building.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the "Roll Call" article, a copy of the Congressman's letter to me, and a copy of my reply.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

George.

J. George Stewart
Architect of the Capitol

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

*Have
Office
Bldg.*

October 27, 1960

Honorable Sam Rayburn, Chairman
House Office Building Commission
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

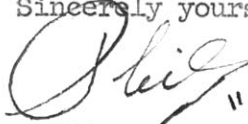
Mr. Stewart has left Washington for a short vacation. Before leaving last night, he asked me to have made and to send to you a copy of the enclosed editorial from the October 26, 1960 issue of "Roll Call." This relates to Mr. Stewart's report of October 15, 1960, to you and other Members of the House Office Building Commission regarding alleged dangerous conditions at the Third House Office Building reported in "Roll Call" on October 12, 1960.

As we have always cooperated with "Roll Call" reporters in giving them accurate information relating to the various projects, there was no excuse for their irresponsible article of October 12, 1960, being used without giving this office an opportunity to present the facts.

However, having printed Mr. Stewart's letter of October 15, 1960, and a portion of Congressman Auchincloss' letter to the reporter in the enclosed editorial, perhaps any damage to the prestige of the Members of the Commission, the Architect of the Capitol, the Associate Architects or the contractor has been mitigated at least.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Philip L. Roof
Executive Assistant to the Architect

Stewart, Geo -

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Additional Hours
Office Only,

October 17, 1960

Oct. 18, 1960

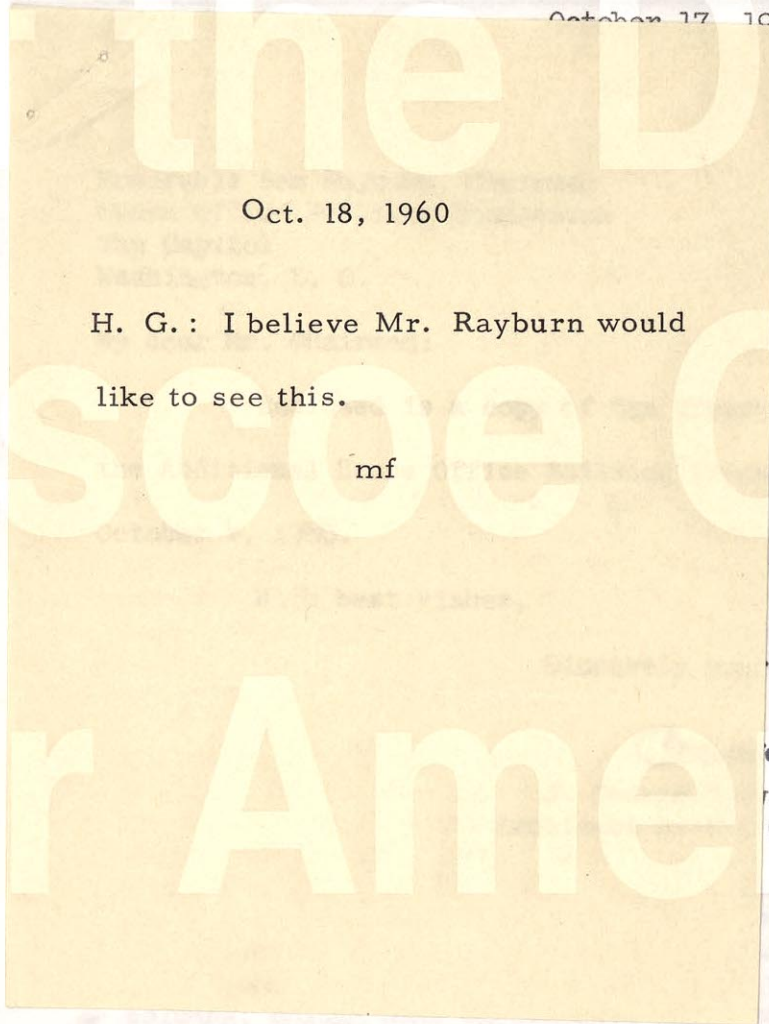
H. G.: I believe Mr. Rayburn would
like to see this.

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Capitol



Contract drawings have been reviewed by the architect's Office and have
been returned to the architect for correction.

7. Bitte Alterations

Check for the additional lighting in Rooms 1324 and 1334

Stewart, Geo -

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

*Additional House
Office Bldg.*

October 17, 1960

Honorable Sam Rayburn, Chairman
House Office Building Commission
The Capitol
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is a copy of the progress report on
the Additional House Office Building Project as of
October 4, 1960.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

George.

J. George Stewart
Architect of the Capitol

October 4, 1960

PROGRESS REPORT
ADDITIONAL HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING PROJECT

A. ADDITIONAL HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (Harbeson, Hough, Livingston and Larson, Associate Architects)

1. Foundations

- (a) Contractor, McCloskey and Company
- (b) Contract is 88.5% complete as of September 30, 1960
- (c) Status of work: 69,450 cubic yards of concrete, out of a total of 78,195 cubic yards, have been poured in pile caps, foundation mats, anchor frames, and foundation lugs in all four quadrants. 8,186 pile shells, out of a total of 9,000, have been driven in all four quadrants; 8,162 pile shells have been filled with concrete.

2. Structural Steel

- (a) Contractor, Bethlehem Steel Company
- (b) Contract is 50.1% complete as of September 30, 1960
- (c) On September 17, 1960, Contractor began installation of structural steel at elevator shafts, Second Garage Level and Basement, S. W. and N. W. Quadrants, in accordance with revised plans.

3. Superstructure

- (a) Contractor, McCloskey and Company
- (b) Contract is 1+% complete as of September 30, 1960
- (c) Status of work: Contractor has continued to sandblast structural steel columns and beams, place reinforcing steel, set concrete forms for walls, beams, columns and Second Garage Level, and install sleeves and inserts for electrical and mechanical installations in the S. W. and N. W. quadrants. Approximately 2,190 cubic yards of concrete have been placed in exterior walls, columns, column base encasements and shear walls in the west half of the building.

B. CHANGES, ALTERATIONS AND REMODELING OF NEW HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (Poor and Swanke, Associate Architects)

1. Tunnels

Contract drawings have been reviewed by the Architect's Office and have been returned to the Associate Architects for correction.

2. Suite Alterations

Contract for the additional lighting in Committee Rooms 132⁴ and 133⁴ was awarded to the Plymouth Electric Company on October 3, 1960.

3. Lower Floor Activities

A few items under the Take-Out Bar contract remain to be resolved before final payment can be made to the Contractor.

The Contractor on the enlargement and improvement of Post Office facilities has completed his demolition work and has begun electrical installations.

C. CHANGES, ALTERATIONS AND REMODELING OF THE OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(DeWitt and Hardison, Associate Architects)

No change from last month

D. SUBWAY TO CAPITOL (Shelton and Stanford, Associate Architects)

Preliminary plans for the subway cars have been approved by the Architect of the Capitol and the Associate Architects have been directed to have contract documents ready to go out for bid by December 1, 1960. Preparation of working drawings on the tunnel will begin after that date.