Museum Services Act (1984): News Article 04

Ruth Dean

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frightful report's in from a certain Historical House hereabouts. (Ear would never drop names. But might just rumble that the House is a shade more Historical than its occupants.) A throng of Rich, Bright and Silky Young People rolled in the other night for a fete. By the time they rolled out, Ear hears, every stitch of furniture in the place had been stained or torn, every table overturned, every dab of food right down to the raspberries tossed through the air or trampled, and every last scrap of the hostess's jewelry snitched. Good heavens. Where are Standards, if not among the Rich, Bright and Silky Young? Tomorrow: The surprising morning Ear.

Senators explore museum services at Pell hearings

By Ruth Dean
Washington Star Staff Writer

For a few moments yesterday, Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., turned a Senate re-authorization hearing into a mutual admiration society as they explored the prospects of how senators can use their influence to press the nation's museums into round-the-clock community service.

When Kennedy asked Institute of Museum Services director Lee Kimche if the 5,500 museums to which IMS gives operating grants were involved in community outreach programs, she replied, "not as much as we would like..." Then she told him about a successful venture that brought New York educators and museum directors together for the first time that has resulted in educational programs which have benefitted that city's children.

"Fine," beamed Kennedy who offered to "take the opportunity on my own and contact various school boards and museum directors in my state to initiate these community relations."

Javits enthusiastically endorsed Kennedy's "excellent point which I'll emulate, in fact all the committee members here might emulate. We can be very influential. And it won't cost us any money."

George C. Seybolt, IMS board chairman and former director of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, cautioned it could pose some "knotty problems." Museum directors, he explained, can often employ "lofty language" not easily understood by children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

But this logic failed to dissuade the senatorial museum missionaries. "There are certain museums that lend themselves to children's interests," offered Kennedy. And Javits maintained that "subliminal perception — exposing kids to fine arts through our museums" is enough to "have a lasting effect on their lives."
make Dracula look like a Temperance Movement leader on the blood drinking front, they carry a hopeless and hectic phase and they can wipe out a whole state or region a lot quicker and gorier than any Irwin Allen swarm of bees.

"I like it," Ransdoff probably said. Bat bites don't last. Now there's a great story.

But in immortal Hollywood fashion simple ideas seldom stay that way long, as you'll perhaps

Hearing: Whither the home of IMS

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Javits even went one step further. Recalling the title, "Hop to it, Popo!" what was in time for the King Tut exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, he maintained, "museums should not be closed one hour out of 24, as long as you have swing shifts. When a worker finishes his shift at midnight, he should be able to visit the Met. Be bold, assertive," he advised the IMS witnesses. "You're really a powerful group.

The discussion, in the subcommittee on education, arts and humanities chaired by Sen. Clai- beres, D.R.I., almost obscured the earlier quandary over where the Institute of Museum Services will make its future home. The matter has eng-aged the IMS board in much dialogue with Pell, who strongly favors the Smithsonian as its eventual destination. Alternate proposals favor giving it the present status—a move favored by Javits—or letting it become part of the newly proposed Department of Education. If Congress should approve the pending legislation which has been tied up in controversial debate.

The IMS currently is housed in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, assigned to the Office of Education, and its board favors staying there for the time being until it grows a little bigger. It now operates on a $74 million budget and is asking for $109 million in its 1980 budget. Funding after that is anticipated to be in the range of $40 to $50 million to keep pace with inflation and higher conservation costs.

How much sleep for busy executive?

Stop Killing Yourself

By Peter J. Steincroft, M.D.

DEAR DR. STEINCROHN: Just how much sleep is necessary for a hard-working man? My husband is an executive in a busy, thriving manufacturing firm. As he's ambitious to get even higher in the company he works very hard. Not only at the shop, but when he gets home with a briefcase filled with papers.

But what disturbs me even more is that he stays up late and gets up early. He admits he doesn't get more than six hours sleep a night. Isn't that too little considering how hard he works?

But he maintains he doesn't need more. I'll admit that so far I haven't noticed that he has slowed down. He never complains of being tired. Do you think he should be getting more rest at night?

—Mrs. G.

I've received a report from The Better Sleep Council after a study on the sleep habits of presi-dents and chairmen of Fortune 500 companies. Compared to the national average of 7.5 hours, 46 percent of the executives slept an average of 6.5 hours.

For one-third of the executives the typical length of a night's sleep was 7 or more hours; 15 percent reported sleeping 5-6 hours; and 2 percent, only 4-5 hours.

When they couldn't fall asleep, what were their remedies? Not picking reading as the most common. Following is a list of the most common...

Pell told the officials he favors a "two-year extension" of IMS at HUD for discussion and ex-ploration of the matter in reauthorization legis-lation he introduced this week. But eventually, he said, "I've felt for a long time that the Smithsonian should be your permanent home" and he hoped, in time IMS would think of it "not as an inquisitor, but a conservator — the nation's museums' museum."

Douglas Dillon, member of the IMS board and chairman of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, told the committee, "Museums are facing double-digit inflation. Income from all federal sources, though helpful, cannot keep pace at the present level of funding."

He cited the Metropolitan as a case in point. "Even keeping pay raises within seven percent, as President Carter has suggested," said Dillon, "represents $1 million annual increase for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, without considering inevi-tual increases in the other expenses of the museum. It is impossible, unless the federal gov-ernment can alleviate the pressure by giving operating surplus and inflation causes museums to pay more for less."

Kimche told the committee that it costs $1 bil-lion to keep museums operating annually, and an additional $100 million is needed each year "just to retain their real purchasing power in the face of an annual inflation rate of ten percent and per-sistent energy shortages."

A few sang the praises of taking catnaps, but most did not take the time.

I would guess, Mrs. B., that your husband is getting sufficient sleep if he doesn't have the follow-ing symptoms: feeling drowsy, complaining of lack of pep and being irritable and lacking in strength and loss of keenness and initiative.

As some executives have told me, "Six hours is my bag. I feel swell." Probably your husband fits into that category.

DEAR DR. STEINCROHN: Don't you think that the dangers of air pollution are being exagger-ated? On the worst day of the year, I do not have some eye irri-tation that disappears as soon as I get to my office. What's all the excitement about?

—Mr. P.

Be thankful that your city hasn't suffered the severe type that has killed hundreds within days. This may happen when there is an "inversion" of air temperature. Air does not rise to allow cleaner air to move in.

For example, in October 1948 pollution blan-keted the town of Donora, Pa. Seventeen deaths oc-curred within four days. In London, England, in 1952 between Dec. 5 and 9 there developed a "soup fog," caused by an accumulation of air pol-lutants. Later statistics confirmed that there were 4,000 excess deaths in that period.

Of course, not all air pollution is as severe as in these instances. But you can be sure, Mr. K., that patients already suffering from lung and heart disease are not so fortunate as only to complain of some eye irritation. Air pollution is not an exaggerated problem.