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February 1, 1980

TO: Sandy Crary
FROM: David
RE: Classical Yachting Museum

I covered the Senator's meeting with Michael Allen and Michael Buonvino. They are in the early stages of building support to establish a museum of classical yachts.

The Senator said he would be glad to give general support to the concept. He suggested that they meet with John Millar who attempted a somewhat similar effort a few years back and with whom they have had only indirect contact. He also said that his support would have to be tempered by an expression of support that also expressed his concern for commercial use of the Newport port, which is where they appear to be heading in establishing the museum. In other words, he does not want his support to appear to conflict with his support for fishing and other commercial interests.

Allen and Buonvino have met with people in the State Department of Environmental Management and have apparently gotten some interest from them in settling the museum at Ft. Adams, which would provide both land and in-water sites for the museum. There may be some opposition from Antoinette Downing of the Preservation Society on the use of Ft. Adams land for this purpose. Allen and Buonvino mentioned that she was particularly interested in preserving the fort and surrounding grounds as a fort and not diverting it for another use. The Senator vaguely mentioned something about touching
base with Ms. Downing to assess the nature and extent of her opposition, but it wasn't clear to me if Allen and Buonvino were to make that contact or if we were to do it.

Finally, the Senator also said he would get to Allen and Buonvino a copy of the Smithsonian study that he commissioned a few years ago regarding the feasibility of establishing a maritime museum. He said to contact Ray Nelson to get a copy of the report, which I hope I will have done by the time you have read this far!

Business cards for Allen and Buonvino are attached. They have your name and number, too.

After their meeting with Pell, they were going over to meet with people at the Institute of Museum Services and planned also to meet with people at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

You now know as much as I do. Good luck.