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Museum Services Act (1984): News Article 04

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frightful report's in from a certain Historical House hereabouts. (Ear would never drop names. But might just maumble that the House is a shade more Historical then its occupants.) A throng of Rich, Bright and Silky Young People rolled in the other night for a feé. 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 jewelery 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."

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Javits even went one step further. Recalling the time he and Sen. Tower postured 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 minority." The discussion, in the subcommittee on education, arts and humanities chaired by Sen. Claxton, D-Del., almost obscured the earlier quandary over where the Institute of Museum Services will make its future home. The matter has engaged the IMS board in much dialogue with Pell, who strongly favors the Smithsonian as its eventual destination. Alternate proposals favor giving the new museum status - a move favored by Javits - or letting it become part of the newly proposed Department of Education. 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 $7.4 million budget and is asking for $10.9 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. Steinrohn, M.D.

DEAR DR. STEINROHN: 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 at night. Isn't that too little considering how hard he works?

But he must be getting some sleep or 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 presidents and chairmen of Fortune 500 companies. Compared to the national average of 7.5 hours, 60 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? They picked reading as the most common activity, but the second most popular was daytime sleep.

Pelli told the officials he favors a "two-year extension" of IMS at HDW "for discussion and exploration of the matter" in reauthorization legislation 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 museum's 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 for the arts."

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

Kimche told the committee that it costs $1 billion 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 persistent energy shortages.

Chee (Stephen Macni), leader of one Indian tribe, mineral rights to the oil company for about 1,000 times the usual price. And in the town of Donora, Pa., seventeen deaths occurred within four days in London, England, in 1952 between Dec. 7 and 9, with a high of 30 degrees F. cause of death was reported to be air pollution, caused by accumulation of air pollutants. Later studies 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.