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July 6, 1926.

To the Members of the Capitol Commission and
to the Goodhue Associates:

The scenario which I herewith submit for the symbolism of the Capitol decoration is as nearly complete as my information in respect to the building permits. It is planned as a logical whole and carries out in detail the main lines of the ideas laid down by Mr. Goodhue in the original design of the building.

The principle features have already been submitted to the Commission and have been approved. Many of them are either executed or under way at the present moment. There are others (such as the Memorial to Mr. Goodhue himself) that have been considered but not as yet definitely passed upon. Still others call for modifications of earlier plans while in one case (the Memorial Chamber) nothing has heretofore been offered. In presenting this report I beg, therefore, to call attention to those matters which are new or modify previous action.

First, in the matter of inscriptions. All of the inscriptions here offered have been formally approved excepting in three instances. These are:

(1) The passage from Washington's Farewell Address proposed for the mantel in the Senate Lounge. This was originally proposed for the Governor's room, but the state motto has been used there instead. Mr. Phillip says that it can readily be used as here suggested.

(2) The eight engaged figures about the base of the Tower, for which subjects are here offered, are accompanied by inscriptions. It is my belief that these will aid the symbolism of the images as a group. Mr. Lawrie has expressed approval.

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(3) The reliefs, with accompanying inscriptions, proposed for the Foyer, to replace the niches of the original design, will in my opinion greatly aid both the richness and the clarity of the symbolism of this hall. These are new, and have not been approved nor previously submitted.

Second, the suggestion that stone seats be placed in the Foyer between each pair of lateral niches is also a new suggestion.

Third, the suggestion that the Goodhue Memorial be placed on the splay of one of the tower shafts in the Rotunda is a modification of a previous suggestion by Mr. Lawrie. It may call for special treatment of the stone, in preparation for a relief tablet.

Fourth, the suggestion for the Floor, Vestibule to Rotunda, is in part new. I talked this over with Mr. Phillip and he regarded the scheme very favorably. Miss Meiere should be commissioned to prepare the cartoons, as it is this idea which I have worked out in consultation with her as well as with the architects.

Fifth, the scheme for the painted decoration of the Library ceiling seems to me important, not only because of the public nature of the room, but also because it will admirably complete the symbolism of the interior.

Sixth, a matter of great importance is an early contract for the figure of "The Sower" at the summit of the Dome. Mr. Lawrie states that it will require a year to model and another to cast this image, and that it must be hoisted in place while the Tower is still in skeleton. This image is a very important element in the decoration of the Capitol, and it should receive attention.

Seventh, the original design calls for a series of twenty-four engaged figures, with symbols, above the window piers, on the exterior of the Tower. I have arranged subjects suitable for these according to the original idea, that they should typify the industrial life of the state. However, it is my own opinion that the building would gain by the omission of these figures and the substitution of a purely architectural termination for the piers.

Eighth, as stated above, the scheme for the Memorial Chamber and the Turrets is entirely new. I am not aware that the treatment of this unit has previously been considered.

Respectfully submitted,


H. B. Alexander

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