

HIGHLIGHTS/NOTES FROM VIDEO OF
REPLACEMENT OF THE STATUE OF FREEDOM
OCTOBER 23, 1993 CEREMONY

Transcribed by Donna-Lynn Yon

Note: There are two ceremonies on this tape.

- The first ceremony is the replacement of the Statue of Freedom. Notes/Highlights from this tape were paraphrased or quoted. Special emphasis is given to the book: The United States Capitol, where stories shared can be further referenced.
- The second ceremony is the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the United States Capitol. Speeches given by leaders representing the three branches of government were transcribed word for word and appear in quotes.

The October, 23, 1993, video recording of the Replacement of the Statue of Freedom ceremony featured on C-SPAN (borrowed from Roma & Gary Peton) opens with an introduction to Clarence J. Brown, President of United States Capitol Historical Society. [The quality of the sound is good on this video; unfortunately, the picture is not tracked properly (double vision)]

In his interview with Erickson Air Crane of Central Point, Oregon, it was mentioned that the sky crane was like the Arnold Schwarzenegger of lifters, capable of lifting 25,000 lbs. The crane was made for military use, later for commercial use, as well. All the sky crane operators had military training.

Upon noting George White talking to the crane operators, Clarence J. Brown, acknowledged the important role assumed by George White. It was the job of George White, Architect of the Capitol, to give the signal to the crane operators to start the sky crane to commence the lifting of the Statue of Freedom to the top of the Capitol dome.

George White, Architect since the 1970s, (note: actually 1971; I recall he resigned sometime after the Capitol Bicentennial ceremony took place) was originally from Cleveland, Ohio. He was a man of many talents. He has the unusual distinction of being an architect, engineer, and lawyer. He graduated from Harvard Business School. One of his greatest talents was that he was considered the best politician on the Hill. George White presides over the whole Capitol building, while the House & Senate each reside over just half the building. As such, George White has to resolve differences between the House & Senate, as well as the Republicans and Democrats.

According to Clarence Brown, the Capitol is probably the best-known building in the world. It was modeled after the domed cathedrals in Europe. It is one of the last buildings-built stone on stone. A C-SPAN anchor asked Clarence Brown: "When you provide tours through the Capitol, what are some of the most commonly asked questions that people give you?" His answer: "Well, people want to know, I think, more about the history of the individual rooms and the various art objects in there. One of the things as I mentioned before is -- they ask to see some of the masonic symbols that you'll find in the stones and in various places where the masons, stone masons, who actually built the building, put their own individual marks in there; each had his own individual mark. The size of the building is impressive, but I think even more impressive is the fact that this building -- that's a function of the architect -- is an electronic marvel today...." "In planning the building, Washington asked for one that would grow with the nation, and indeed, this building has done that." L'Enfant and his role in developing the Capitol was discussed (see book: The United States Capitol by Fred & Suzy Maroon, 1993).

George White, the architect of the Capitol, met the various dignitaries as they arrived on the East front. Upon seeing Senator Robert Byrd, Clarence Brown shared, "Senator Robert Byrd, Democrat from West Virginia, and a capital historian in his own right -- he has written the history of the U.S. Senate, a two-volume history, that is a real piece of work-- to tell the history of what the Senate has been over the years."

It was mentioned that Clinton, Gore, and spouses were yet to arrive to watch the lifting of the Lady of Freedom to the top of the Capitol. Also, it was noted that the focus this day was on the dome, because the Lady of Freedom would be put on her pedestal, which is the dome. The dome of the U.S. Capitol has been copied by other state capitals. Also, Liza Minnelli was to sing; the U.S. Navy Band was to perform. At around 11:30 a.m., EST, the Bicentennial celebration was to follow the lifting of the statue.

Clarence Brown estimated that between 25,000-30,000 people were there to attend the ceremony.

Addressing a question about Thomas Jefferson, it was noted that Thomas Jefferson was a noted architect in his day and played a definite role in developing the Capitol. He had a say in the location of the Capitol, and even the location of the Capitol was a compromise. . (Note: The story is in the book: The United States Capitol by Fred & Suzy Maroon, 1993). It was believed that Thomas Jefferson even submitted a unanimous drawing of the Capitol. Clarence Brown thought it was interesting that his “drawing was pretty atrocious; it had an eagle on top of it, and it just didn’t work!” There is a collection of drawings that are to be put together in a book shortly.

The C-SPAN anchor conversing with Clarence Brown referred to the Statue of Freedom as the Lady of Freedom. The discussion then went to a description of the Lady of Freedom. They talked about Jefferson Davis, the Secretary of War, who complained about the original cap to be put on the Lady of Freedom. Explained Brown: “Jefferson was a southerner, and the southerners still held slaves in those days when this was being planned. They were going to have a liberty cap on her, the cap that one sees from the French Revolution, one that the slaves wore as a bit of a protest about their condition. Although it was an easily made cap... – liberty in war and peace is literally what he, Crawford, had in mind when he designed this. You see the shield on one side and the sword on the other. But Jefferson Davis’ complaint resulted in him putting a form of Indian headdress on it, that is the beak of the eagle, with the talons of the eagle, and then feathers from the eagle, which is a form of Indian headdress. And then the helmet has stars on it. They seem a little large for the statue. I am not an art critic, so I shouldn’t do that. But somebody said what is she draped in? It looks that she is draped somewhat like Scarlet O’Hara, and the drape is right off the wall because you look at the tassels on the drapes and so forth and that is her raiment. But that helmet was Jefferson Davis’ contribution to the Statue of Freedom.”

It was mentioned that Jefferson Davis went on to become the President of the Confederacy.

The following questions were asked of Clarence Brown:

Question: “Any significance to the stars; how many are circling her head?”

Answer: “There aren’t 13. It’s not the right number, so I’m not sure why the stars are there or why there is a certain number on there.”

Question: “Was there any discussion in this renovation project to have the statue face west?”

Answer: “There has been. And there again (White made?) a fairly whimsical remark about that. He said if Congress would like for me to, I’d put her on a lazy susan and we can sort of turn her around and have her face any direction you want any particular time. But I think the traditionalists won out. The Statue of Freedom always faced east. That again has a lot of different traditional backgrounds. You know, Japan has the rising sun as its flag. And so many nations think the east is the source of strength and might. And again, there is a masonic tradition that leadership and power comes from the east. And it has, of course -- when you go back even further in history -- the sun and the rising sun, has almost a religious symbolism to it.”

It was then noted that President Clinton had left the White House, and the U.S. Navy band was getting ready. Discussion then centered on steel workers at the top of the dome who were going to bolt the Lady of Freedom down, etc.

It was noted that Tom Foley, Speaker of the House, Representative Bob Dole, from Kansas, and George Mitchell, Minority Leader, had arrived. Discussion then centered on Dr. William Thornton, from the British West Indies, who submitted a design plan for the Capitol and

won (see book: The United States Capitol by Fred & Suzy Maroon, 1993). They planned to show pictures to the viewers of C-SPAN later (note: they must have forgotten!). Meanwhile, the cameras followed Clinton in route to the Capitol. Clinton stepped out of his limo on the East Front of the U.S. Capitol, and shook hands with the other governmental officials who greeted him. The sky crane was signaled to begin its operations.

The sky crane lifted the cage containing the Statue of Freedom and safely delivered her to the dome of the Capitol, serving as her pedestal. Workmen immediately began to bolt her down.

As the engines quieted down, a round of applause followed. The President of the U.S., Clinton, shook hands with the crew from Ohio.

Commenting on the Capitol building, Clarence Brown said that he always gets a great thrill at looking at the dome of the Capitol lit against the night sky. He said that the Capitol building perhaps is the best-known building in the world, certainly the best-known governmental building in the world. He noted that most people could not tell you what buildings other governments (Japanese, German, British parliament) meet at around the world. "That dome is known all over the world as the place of freedom, where we have individual freedom. We have market economy, and we have an opportunity for individuals to do their thing, and there are very few people in the world who would not like to be governed under this dome by the Congress that sits there. And it is the Congress-- as both former Senator Howard Baker and Senator Byrd pointed out back on September 18th (and 17th?) when we had our celebration for the Capitol Historical Society-- it is the Congress that is the cornerstone of that building and also the cornerstone of our Republican form of government. The first Article of the Constitution set up the group that meets in that building."

The restoration took just under 5 months to complete, at a cost of about \$780,000.

Anchor from C-SPAN: "Clarence Brown, a former member of Congress himself, and now the President and CEO of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, thank you very much for being with us and adding your perspective on this historic day."

Clarence Brown: "It is my great pleasure. I enjoyed it. Thank you."

The anchor noted that the live coverage was to continue shortly on the west front. There was over a 40-minute intermission. Following the President's arrival on the west front, the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the United States Capitol began.

200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

The ceremony of the 200th Anniversary of the United States Capitol Celebration was a celebration of the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol on September 18, 1798. On this date, George Washington was on hand to lay the historical cornerstone of the Capitol.

The ceremony commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by the Presentations of Colors. The benediction was given by Reverend James Ford, House Chaplain. The Masters of Ceremony, David McCullough, historian and author of the historic Harry Truman, introduced keynote speakers.

200th Anniversary Celebration of the United States Capitol:

The Masters of Ceremony, David McCullough, historian and author of the historic Harry Truman, commenced the celebration with the following introduction:

"Mr. President, Ladies & Gentlemen, my name is David McCullough. On this magnificent morning at this historic place, at Latitude 38 degrees, 53 minutes N, Longitude 77 degrees W on the hill above the Potomac, we are gathered to celebrate the Bicentennial of the best known, the most important, and the most revered structure in our nation, the U. S. Capitol. We are Americans and for us this is a proud day, for this great building holds a place in our hearts and in our way of life like no other. It is a shrine on a hill, and it is the national stage upon which are

enacted the difficult tasks and continuing drama of representative government, the bedrock of our faith in the Land of the Free. Freedom is why we are here. Freedom is why America. And at the summit of the dome now, there in sunshine, the emblem of freedom is again in her place. Older by a generation than the Statue of Liberty, she has stood on high since the year 1863, since the autumn of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address. She has weathered civil war, world war. She has seen the death of Presidents, the Great Depression, the sky turned dark by prairie dust blown from half a continent away. She has been pelted by sleet and snow and struck by lightning. And she has seen triumphant times, good times, lots of good times. Never has she looked better than today, October 23, 1993 – all newly, thoroughly refurbished, ready for another 200 years or more. And never, ever, has our Capitol looked better than today, not ever before in all of its days. Ladies and gentlemen, 100 years ago in this very place, the nation celebrated the Capitol's first century. The President of the United States, leaders of Congress and Justices of the Supreme Court addressed another vast audience. On this equally festive occasion, a century later, we will now hear from the successors of those leaders who represented our government's three branches. We begin with the leadership of the Senate. To offer his observations about our government as it existed 200 years ago when the Capitol cornerstone was put in place, here is the majority leader of the United States Senate, the honorable George Mitchell."

George Mitchell (D – Maine; Democratic Leader):

"Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, Friends. Much has changed in the 200 years since the cornerstone of this capital was laid. Then there were 5 million Americans, 15 states with 30 senators, and 106 representatives. Now, of course, there are 250 million Americans, 50 states, 100 senators, 435 members of the House. But more striking than the change, is that so much is the same. In 1793, the government faced a serious national debt. In 1993, it still does. In 1793, umbrella makers in Philadelphia petitioned Congress for protection against imported French umbrellas. We still get such petitions. The thing that hasn't changed is the American commitment to liberty. The crowning achievement of the early American government was the Bill of Rights, the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution. They remain today as they have been for two centuries -- the most concise and eloquent statement ever written by human beings of the fundamental rights of free men and women against the power of government. The Bill of Rights is the defining act of American history. The Constitution was ratified, and this nation was launched on the bedrock principle of individual liberty as expressed in the Bill of Rights, both uniquely American and universal in its reach. It is that spirit which we celebrate today. This building, the United States Capitol, is the preeminent physical symbol of freedom in the world. But more important even than this great structure is the spirit which led to its construction and which inhabits it today. We are fortunate and very proud to be Americans, citizens of the most open, the most just society in all of history. That is our benefit. With that benefit comes the responsibility to act so that 200 years from today Americans and people all over the world will admire this building, and Americans will still live in freedom protected by an unchanged and unchangeable Bill of Rights. On this brilliant day, it is obvious that God is smiling on America. May it always be so."

David McCullough:

"The United States has had three capitals since 1789. Here to tell us about them is the Republican leader of the United States Senate, the honorable Bob Dole."

Bob Dole (R - Kansas):

"Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, my colleagues, distinguished guests. We gather this morning on the grounds of the third capital of the United States. When the first Congress convened in 1789, it met in New York City, occupying the former City Hall. That location was only temporary, however, as the recently ratified constitution provided for the establishment of a permanent capital city. The location for that city was selected in 1790, when Congress passed the Residence Act directing by the year 1800 the government should occupy a new federal district along the Potomac River. While the new capital city was under construction, Congress moved from New York to Philadelphia where they carried on the task of building a democracy. At the same time, hundreds of workmen were building a new federal city on the

Potomac. In his plans for the city, Pierre Charles L'Enfant placed a capital on the crest – what was then known as Jenkins Hill, a site he described as a “pedestal waiting for a monument.” On September 18, 1793, a large and boisterous crowd gathered here to watch an elaborate masonic ceremony, highlighted by placing the capital cornerstone by President George Washington. As many of you know, my colleague, Senator Strom Thurmond, who was here on that day, refuses to reveal exactly where the cornerstone is.” (Emphasis: Laughter from the audience) “The Alexandria Gazette reported that the ceremony concluded with 15 salutes from the artillery, and then the whole cavalry retired to an extensive booth where an ox of 500 lbs. was barbecued. History will note this was the first time-- but not certainly not the last-- that someone’s ox was gored in the United States Capitol.” Applause from the crowd.

David McCullough:

“To give a certain inimitable slant and prospective on today’s proceedings relating them both to ancient times and modern usage, here is the President Pro Temp of the United States Senate, the honorable Robert C. Byrd.”

Robert C. Byrd (D – West Virginia):

“Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Justice Blackmun, my fellow Americans: the United States Capitol building is a visible symbol of America’s links to ancient Rome. Of all that made Rome great, nothing was more basic than Rome’s noble attachment to a mixed constitution of checks and balances and separation of powers that lifted her from the lowest beginnings to that radiant summit of splendor and magnificence that has never ceased to attract the admiration and the wonder of the world but when that devotion to a mixed constitution was lost, the short sword of the Roman legion and the wooden galleons that plagued the Adriatic could no longer save her. And the ancient empress of the classical world sank into a hopeless impotence and eventual obscurity as the military power and territorial empire. Two hundred years ago, our forefathers laid the cornerstone for this building within which is domiciled the branch of government that springs directly from the people and from whom derives its constant renewal and which only a few years before had been set in place by the framers of the constitution, the cornerstone of this Republic. As we today commemorate with pride the cornerstone laying of this temple that houses the people’s branch, let us renew afresh our affinity to the constitutional system, the foundation upon which this republic rests. We received it from our fathers, let us as surely hand it on to their sons and daughters and their children who will stand in our place a hundred years from now, a system of government under a mixed constitution that raised this American republic to a summit more glorious than ancient Rome ever saw. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I have the distinct pleasure and the high privilege of presenting to you the Vice President of the United States.”

Vice President Al Gore:

“Thank you, Senator Bryd, Mr. President, distinguished members of the Congress, ladies and gentlemen: Of all the symbols of our republic, none moves our hearts the way this capital building moves our hearts. We have heard about the history of this structure, and I would like to add only a brief description of some small moments in the recent history of this structure. As President of the Senate, I still have the privilege sometimes of greeting visitors who are seeing this structure for the first time. And for the past 17 years, I have the privilege of sometimes greeting school children who come from all over the United States to stand in front of this building and look up at the Capitol. It has never ceased to stir me – white against the sky with the Statue of Freedom on top. The reaction of those children who still come almost every day to see this site is the testament to the living history of this building. It was startling these past few months to look up and see scaffolding there, and it’s wonderful to see the Statute of Freedom back this morning. Our country is very different now than that first day when she was first hoisted up in place in 1863, but it is a comfortable feeling to see this old friend back securely in place, ready to look out over Washington for another 130 years and more -- a reminder to all of us that as we look out ahead to the future we must never forget the legacy of our past.”

David McCullough:

“Ladies and Gentlemen, representing the judicial branch of our government, here is the senior associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, the Honorable Harry A. Blackmun.”

Honorable Harry A. Blackmun, United States Supreme Court:

“Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen: Your Supreme Court of the United States has very substantial roots in this building. Although the judicial is one of three branches of our government, for the first 145 years of its existence, the court had no home of its own. In a building sense during that period of almost a century and a half, it distinctly was an orphan. The Court first convened in February 8, 1790 (pause) 8 10, 1790 – it’s wrong here -- in the Royalty Exchange, in New York City, then the seat of government. But the following year the seat was in Philadelphia and the Court assembled there, first at Independence Hall and then at the City Hall. It arrived in Washington in 1801 and until 1809, (inaudible part of tape) sound and various small and inadequate rooms in the capital building, this building. But somewhat more acceptable quarters outside the building were found for the 1809 term, but the Court returned here in 1810. It then was allowed to use the original Senate Chamber when that body moved upstairs to larger quarters. And that chamber now beautifully restored and available for visiting was its courtroom for 50 years -- except for the period of unpleasantness during the War of 1812, when the building was burned by the British with official court papers used as tinder. It is in that room here in this building that Chief Justice Marshall and Chief Justice Taney successively presided. And it is there that Daniel Webster argued the Dartmouth College case, and the Dred Scott case was argued and announced. Once again, however, in December 1860, the court followed the Senate and inherited its chambers upstairs when that body moved into the Capitol’s north wing it presently occupies. The Court used the second Senate chamber for 75 years from 1860 to 1935 when it moved into its present building. I think one may say fairly that the Court’s own impetus came into being primarily through the influence of Chief Justice Taft who had been President of these United States. The site on which the building stands has its historical interest, too, related to this building. It is there that the so-called brick Capitol stood that was used by Congress from 1815 to 1819 while this one was being repaired. And it is there that Henry Clay presided as Speaker of the House, and it is there that Chief Justice Marshall administered the oath of office to James Monroe in 1817. And on that site was located the Capitol prison during the War Between the States.

Incarcerated there were Bill Boyd , the noted Confederate, and Captain Wirz of the Confederacy’s own Andersonville prison. Thus, despite the physical separation of the Court’s present building from the Capitol building, the Court has deep roots here in this building. It feels that it has been a distinct part of the edifice. It knows that long in this building was its original home, and it is honored to celebrate in this celebration today. The Statue of Freedom is again in place and again it faces East. Does she look over to the Court as the symbol of the Judiciary with the expectation and the challenge that its decisions be wise and neutral and correct? I’d like to think so, and I’d also like to think that the Judiciary always will maintain its proper role in the government of this country, which despite its warts and despite defects, we all so dearly love. The Statue of Freedom is on its pedestal and rightly demands the best from all of us. May we all fulfill that very precious promise.”

David McCullough:

“For a musical interlude, here is the United States Navy Band and Senior Chief Musician, Chuck Yates, and their performance of THE CAPITOL:”

“THE CAPITOL

Words cannot describe the feeling of that very special thrill,
That comes over me each time, I see it up here on the hill.
So much more than just a building, for its spirit has not aged.
It’s the theater where the drama of democracy is staged.

The Capitol, the symbol of our nation.
A symbol of the love we have for our nation.

While the torch is in our hands,
We will do the best we can,
To help it thrive, keep its promise alive,
In the Heart of every American woman and man.

As I walk the common corridors, time begins to melt away.
You can almost hear the voices, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay,
Voices resolute with reason, for in passion shouting loud,
Through echo (?) the halls and fill the walls, and keep it standing proud.

The Capitol, the symbol of our nation,
More beautiful with each succeeding generation.
While the torch is in our hands,

We will do the best we can, to help it thrive,
Keep its promise alive.

The Capitol, the symbol of our nation,
An act of faith, a force,
A source of inspiration.
While the torch is in our hands,
We will do the best we can,
To protect the light,
To keep it burning bright,

The Capitol, we sing in celebration.
An act of faith, a force,
A source of inspiration.

While the torch is in our hands,
We will do the best we can,
To help it thrive,
Keep its promise alive,
To protect the light,
Keep it burning bright.
In the heart of every American woman and man.”

David McCullough:

“President Clinton has designated the month of October as National Arts and Humanity’s month. In that spirit, we present our next speaker, reading from her specially prepared poem, Lady Freedom Among Us, the poet laureate of the United States, Rita Dove.”

Rita Dove:

“Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, distinguished guests and friends, I offer this poem written for the glory of this day:

LADY FREEDOM AMONG US

Don’t lower your eyes
Or stare straight ahead to where
You think you ought to be going

Don’t mutter oh no
Not another one

Get a job fly a kite
Go bury a bone

With her old-fashioned sandals
With her leaden skirts
With her stained cheeks and whiskers and heaped up trinkets
She has risen among us in blunt reproach
She has fitted her hair with a hand-me-down cap
And spruced it up with feathers and stars
Slung over one shoulder she wears
The rainbowed layers of charity and murmurs
All of you even the least of you

Don't cross to the other side of the square
Don't think another item to fit the tourist's agenda

Consider her drenched gaze her shining brow
She who has brought mercy back into the streets
And will not retire politely to the potter's field
Having assumed the thick skin of this town
Its gritted exhaust its sunscorch and blear
She rests in her weathered plumage
Big boned resolute
Don't think you can ever forget her
Don't even try
She's not going to budge

No choice but to grant her space
Crown her with sky
For she is one of the many
And she is each of us"

David McCullough:

"On four separate occasions between 1793 and 1958, celebrational events have marked the placement of capital cornerstones. Here to tell us about one of the most significant of those occasions is the first of our three house leaders, the Republican leader, the Honorable Robert H. Michel."

Representative Robert H. Michel (R – Illinois; Republican Leader):

"Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and fellow Americans: It's a very great honor for all of us to be part of this historic ceremony. I'd like to devote my brief remarks this morning to the cornerstone of 1851, which began the enlargement of the Capitol building. The enlargement was necessary because as has been mentioned by the distinguished Majority Leader between 1793 and 1850, the number of states in the union had more than doubled; and as the nation grew, so did the Congress. It was evident that the Capitol building would have to be enlarged, and the plan for the north and the south wings were devised. And so, on the fourth of July, 1851, with church bells ringing and artillery salutes from various spots in the city, the cornerstone ceremony took place. The principal address on that occasion was given by the great orator, Daniel Webster. He spoke brilliantly for two solid hours. This was, of course, before the age of 30 second sound bites and thank heavens, none of our participants have been prone to emulate Webster. Webster deposited in the cornerstone a sheet of paper on which he wrote to prosperity the following: "The union of the United States of America stands firm. Their Constitution still exists unimpaired, growing every day, stronger and stronger, in the affections of the great body of the American people and attracting more and more the admiration of the world." It seems to me that the 1951 cornerstone said something very

wonderful about our country. We Americans have never seen permanence and change as contradictory terms, but rather as complementary parts of our national vision. The new addition to the Capitol building in 1851 certainly changed this building, but in doing so, it helped to keep it a permanent part of our national life. We Americans retain the permanent things in our national life, only when we are willing to strengthen them through change, and in Webster's words growing stronger and stronger every day. This is the great paradox, and this the great blessing of American freedom and progress. The 1851 cornerstone symbolizes that blessing, and I'm glad we can all honor it today.

Tape was interrupted and continued in mid-sentence with David McCullough's next introduction, as follows:

"...admissions (?) who made that thrilling event possible. (Much applause) So much of what we see, so much of what we are told is history somehow, and often for good reason, seems unreal. What we saw happen this morning was real. For an account of the statue's early history, here's the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration, the Honorable Charlie Rose."

Representative Charlie Rose (D – North Carolina):

"Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Justice Blackmun, distinguished colleagues of the Senate and the House: It was less than two weeks after President Lincoln's Gettysburg address, with its emphasis on binding up the nation's wounds and moving forward in brotherhood and unity that the Statue of Freedom was first elevated to her place of inspiration atop the Capitol dome. Today as our nation embarks on a new journey of regeneration and healing, it is fitting that the Statue is restored, refreshed, and reconsecrated. This symbolic ceremony comes at a time when the American people, our President, and our Congress are dedicated to the renewal of our beloved United States. The crest of an eagle's head crowning the Statue is an ancient symbol of human aspiration toward universal good of being reborn through enlightenment, with higher awareness. Let this Statue inspire our efforts. When he left this country and returned to France at the end of our Revolution, General Lafayette said Freedom has found a home, and it is in this country of the United States. Thomas Jefferson envisioned this Capitol 200 years ago when it was dedicated as a living shrine of democracy. It would demonstrate the principles of self-government to all humanity and inspire emulation throughout the world. The Statue we honor today -- a feminine figure -- suggests the female role of healing, her sword depicting the defense of our values. There is no woman speaker on our program today, but the Statue, herself, speaks louder than words. The Holy Bible refers to a city on the hill, and as we regard this Statue towering above our capital building, we recall that we are enjoined to let our light shine forth before all, that they may see our good works. Standing on her own two feet, as Americans strive to do, the Statue suggests that we move with individualism and autonomy to build together a better American community for the future -- a society based upon reconciliation, on sharing, caring, and love for one another. As we look above, we gather strength and courage from our past, as the spirit of freedom guides us toward a future that fulfills the dreams of those who dedicated this Capitol building 200 hundred years ago. Welcome home, Lady Freedom! It's good to have you back on the dome and in our hearts. Thank you!"

David McCullough:

"Our final Congressional speaker will discuss the Capitol as a symbol of representative democracy. It is my great privilege to introduce the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the honorable Thomas S. Foley."

Representative Thomas S. Foley (D - Washington), Speaker of the House:

"Thank you, Mr. McCullough. Two centuries ago, the first President of the United States, George Washington came to this site to lay the cornerstone of the Capitol. We are deeply honored that the 42nd President of the United States has returned to help us celebrate. And to you, Mr. President, and to the Vice President, and to the joint congressional leadership, and to Justice Blackmun, and to the architect of the Capital, and to all the architects, and workers, engineers, and to the wonderful crew of the helicopter and all who placed Freedom back on her perch today, and to Rita Dove, and to all the citizens who contributed by the purchase of their commemorative coins to the elevation of Freedom today, we thank you for coming to make this

a celebration of America. When the (applause) -- This Capitol, this majestic metaphor of the growth of the nation, adorned by the Statue of Freedom, is a symbol of the extraordinary experiment in representative democracy and a beacon to people around the world who seek equal rights, justice, and freedom. Today, the 103rd Congress meets here, and I have the honor to be the 49th speaker. But in November of 1800, Theodore Sedgwick of Massachusetts, the 7th speaker, came with the representatives of 16 states to a wilderness of woodland, swamp, and half-finished buildings to convene the 6th Congress in the new Capitol where masons were still working to complete the building. As I stand here looking westward, I can see what Speaker Sedgwick could only imagine -- the vision of a historic vista of 200 years of democracy. The monuments and museums that trace the political and cultural history of a nation stretched out before us. When Speaker Sedgwick looked westward in 1800, he could see only the plans up here on the front beginning to take shape from the forest and from the White House in the vista. When he convened the 6th Congress, the only wing of the Capitol that was finished was its first wing. But its majesty and all that it represents was already set in stone. American democracy was in its infancy; this building was in progress, and both have sometimes gracefully, and sometimes not so gracefully, adjusted to the changing tides of history. The Capitol survived war and destruction. It has survived restoration, reconstruction, and redesign. It is, in fact, an amalgamation of many buildings, fashioned from many materials – from limestone to cast iron, sandstone to steel, marble, and brick. In so many ways, the Capitol with the Statue of Freedom on its dome symbolizes who we are as a people, but also what we are as a nation – a diverse people unified under one lasting principle that today we have raised above everything else: FREEDOM. Under the watchful eye of Freedom and this temple of democracy echoes the voices of history – voices that rose to challenge of war and peace, of slavery and freedom, and to the preservation of the union itself, voices of courage, dedication, sacrifice and honor that shape this nation. Speaker Theodore Sedgwick could never have imagined today’s vision from Capitol Hill: The National Gallery, the Museum of American History, the Lincoln Memorial, the Air and Space Museum, and above all he could not have imagined the Capitol itself, the importance of which was most dramatically felt in 1865, when delegations representing the governments of the United States and the Confederacy met on ship board at Hampton Roads to discuss the end of the Civil War. At that historical moment, the first thing former Senator Hunter of Virginia, who represented the Confederacy, said to Secretary of State, William Suet was: “How is the Capitol? Is it finished?” Like democracy, this Capitol will never be finished. It is a work in progress, a moving picture of a dynamic government. In the new book, The United States Capitol by Fred & Suzy Maroon, published this year to commemorate the Bicentennial is this quote: “Over the course of its 200-year history, the United States Capitol has grown sometimes fitfully, sometimes gracefully, from being the mere symbol of an idea to be the cherished monument that embodies the nation’s rich remembrance of the past and high hopes for the future. In that respect, it is timeless.” I now have the honor to present a special edition and bound version of that book to our most distinguished speaker and our most distinguished guest. It is my high honor and great privilege to present to you --the President of the United States.”

Speaker Foley hands over a copy of the book to President Clinton.

President William Clinton:

“Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished leaders of the House and Senate, Mr. Justice Blackmun, my fellow Americans: We come here today to celebrate the 200th birthday of this great building, the cornerstone of our Republic. We come here to watch our Capital made whole, 130 years after the beautiful Statue of Freedom was first raised above this Capitol. This is a moment of unity in this great city of ours, so often known for its conflicts. In this moment, we all agree we know in our minds and feel in our hearts the words that Thomas Jefferson spoke in the first inaugural address ever given on these grounds. He said that people of little faith were doubtful about America’s future, but he believed our government was the world’s best hope. What was that hope? The hope that still endures, that in this country, every man and woman, without regard to race or region or station in life would have the freedom to live up to the fullest of his or her God-given potential – the hope that every citizen would get

from government, not a guarantee, but the promise of an opportunity to do one's best, to have an equal chance -- to the most humble and the most well-born -- to do what God meant for them to be able to do. That hope was almost dashed in the great Civil War when the Statue of Freedom was raised. Many people questioned whether Abraham Lincoln should permit this work to go on. But he said during the war, when so many thought that our country would come to an end that if people see the Capitol going on, it is a sign we intend the union to go on. In 1865, Abraham Lincoln gave the first inaugural address ever given under the Statue of Freedom, and he said with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in. And in that, the greatest of all presidential inaugural addresses, Abraham Lincoln gave us our charge for today, for the work of keeping the hope of America alive never finishes. It is not enough for us to be mere stewards of our inheritance, we must always be the architects of its renewal. The Capitol is here after 200 years -- this beautiful Statue of Freedom can be raised anew after 130 years because our forebearers never stopped thinking about tomorrow. We require the freedom to preserve what is best and the freedom to change, the freedom to explore, the freedom to build, the freedom to grow. My fellow Americans, I tell you that perhaps the biggest of our problems today is that too many of our people no longer believe the future can be better than the past and too many others, most of them young, have no connection to the future whatever because their present is so chaotic. But the future, the future, has a claim on all of us. We have, because of our birth right as Americans, a moral obligation to face today's challenges and to make tomorrow better than today. All we really owe to this great country after 200 years is to make sure that 200 hundred years from now this building will still be here and our grandchildren many generations in the future will be here to celebrate it anew. Thank you and God bless you all." vision from Capitol Hill: the National Gallery, the Museum of American History, the Lincoln Memorial, the Air and Space Museum,

Liza Minnelli, entertainer, performed America the Beautiful, along with the U.S. Navy Band and the Howard University Choir.

David McCullough:

"Ladies and gentlemen: thank you for coming today to help celebrate your Capitol. Thanks are also due to the organizations listed in your program that helped make this event possible. We also invite you to remain following the ceremony for a concert by the United States Navy Band, soloist Charles Yates, and the Howard University Choir. On we go."

Another announcer: "We will now present a salute to the union, performed by the Presidential Salute Battery of the 3rd United States Infantry, the Old Guard. The roll call of states in order of admission to the union: (Emphasis: Cannon salutes followed each announced state): Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Mississippi, Illinois, Alabama, Maine, Missouri, Arkansas, Michigan, Florida, Texas, Iowa, Wisconsin, California, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas, West Virginia, Nevada, Nebraska, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii."

Announcer: "Ladies and Gentlemen: Please remain standing until the President and Vice President have departed. Thank you."

Applause. The officials depart as the band plays: "Glory, Glory Hallelujah. His Truth is Marching on." Spectators start to leave.

C-SPAN Announcer: "And that concludes our coverage of the 200th Anniversary celebration event from the United States Capitol. C-SPAN will re-air this event in its entirety overnight beginning at 3:30 a.m. East Coast time, 12:30 a.m. Pacific time."

On screen, following address given:

Send Comments to:

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