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THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE

C. EVERETT KOOP, M.D.

THE COUNCIL OF MEDICAL SPECIALTY SOCIETIES

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FOR EIGHT YEARS I HAD AN OFFICE ON THE 7TH FLOOR OF THE HUMPHREY BUILDING FROM THE WINDOWS OF WHICH I COULD LOOK OUT ON THE MALL. TO THE RIGHT WAS THE CAPITAL. FAR TO THE LEFT, IF I GOT WELL OVER TO THE RIGHT I COULD SEE THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT. JUST BEFORE ME WAS THE REFLECTING POOL.

IN THE SPRING TIME, WHEN WASHINGTON ATTRACTS LITERALLY MILLIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MAKING THEIR JUNIOR OR SENIOR TRIPS TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL, I USED TO WATCH THOSE YOUNGSTERS LINE UP OPPOSITE THE REFLECTING POOL ON MARBLE STEPS TO HAVE THEIR PICTURES TAKEN BY A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER. INCIDENTLY, I ALWAYS WONDERED HOW HE GOT THE CONCESSION.

WHAT USED TO GO THROUGH MY MIND ON THOSE OCCASIONS
WAS NOT THAT MY HIGH SCHOOL NEVER MADE A TRIP TO
WASHINGTON. NOT THAT I WASN'T ABLE TO ACCOMPANY SOME
OF MY GRANDCHILDREN WHEN THEY CAME.

BUT RATHER THAT THOSE YOUNGSTERS, EAGER,
IMPRESSIONABLE, AND LOOKING FOR A GUIDING LIGHT IN THEIR
LIVES HAD NO OPPORTUNITY IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL TO BE
STIMULATED TO ENTER A FIELD OF COMPANY, HEALTH, OR
MEDICINE.

INSTEAD THEY WOULD BE STIMULATED TO THINK OF CAREERS IN MAKING ANYTHING FROM THE FBI TO THE NUTRING OF CURRENCY AND FROM JOINING ONE OF THE ARMED FORCES TO BEING PART OF THE CONQUEST OF SPACE.

IN 1981, WHEN I LOOKED OUT ON THE REPETITIVE PHOTO
OPPORTUNITIES THESE YOUNG PEOPLE PROVIDED, THERE WERE
NOT A NUMBER OF OTHER INDICATIONS THAT MY CONCERNS
WERE LEGITIMATE. SCIENCE TEACHERS ABOUNDED.

GRADE SCHOOLS, JUNIOR HIGHS, AND HIGH SCHOOLS HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN FINDING TEACHERS OF BIOLOGY OR HEALTH SCIENCES. MEDICAL SCHOOLS HAD A COMFORTABLE TEN APPLICANTS FOR EVERY SLOT IN THE AGGREGATE CLASSES.

BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED. LAST YEAR WHEN I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ACCEPTING AN AWARD FROM THE COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY PRESIDENTS, I WAS STRUCK BY THE FACT OFFICERS CAME TO ME AND SHARED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE DIFFICULTIES ** THEIR PARTICULAR SCIENTIFIC BODY WAS HAVING IN ATTRACTING PROPER YOUNG PEOPLE TO CARRY ON THE TRADITION.

LAST YEAR THREE AMERICAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS ADVERTISED IN APPLICANTS

APRIL FOR STUBERTS TO ENTER MEDICAL SCHOOL WITH THE

STUDENTS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER. THIS YEAR THERE ARE NOT

TEN BUT 1.6 STUDENTS APPLYING FOR EACH SLOT IN THE

AGGREGATE MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

HOW CAN SUCH A STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED STATES BE AFFECTED BY ACTIVITY IN THE NATIONS CAPITAL.

LET ME TAKE YOU BACK TO A FEW YEARS BEFORE 1966. THE
WEALTHY PHILANTHROPIST, JOSEPH H. HIRSHHORN HAD
ACCUMULATED MORE THAN 5500 ART TREASURES AND HAD AN
EXTRA MILLION DOLLARS FOR ADDITIONAL ACQUISITIONS TO A
MUSEUM.

I AM TOLD, ON RELIABLE AUTHORITY, THAT HE PLANNED TO RUN ROUGH-SHOD OVER ANY OPPOSITION TO BUILDING A MUSEUM FOR HIS COLLECTION ON THE MALL. HE ALSO WANTED THE MUSEUM TO BE IN THE SHAPE OF A HUGE BAGEL. ONE WONDERS HOW THE SAME INDIVIDUAL COULD HAVE COLLECTED 5500 WORKS OF ART AND HAVE SUCH REMARKABLE ARCHITECTURAL TASTE.

IT WAS ARGUED THAT THE ONLY AVAILABLE SPACE ON THE MALL
WAS A TRACT ON INDEPENDENCE AVENUE BETWEEN 7TH AND 9TH
STREETS AND EXTENDING THOUGHT TO MADISON DRIVE.

ONE WONDERS WHERE THE TERM "AVAILABLE" CAME FROM
BECAUSE THAT TRACT WAS OCCUPIED BY WHAT WAS CALLED
THE ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM OR AS IT WAS AFFECTIONATELY
KNOWN IN WASHINGTON, "THE OLD RED BRICK BUILDING."

STAN HOPE BAYNE JONES, A RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL AND MICROBIOLOGIST CONTENDED THAT THE MUSEUM AND ITS RESEARCH CENTER SHOULD NOT BE SEPARATED, THAT THE MOVE WOULD BE COSTLY AND THAT SUCH A MOVE NO MATTER WHERE IT WENT WOULD SHORT CHANGE THE FACILITY AND DELAY RESEARCH PROJECTS.

THERE WAS AT THAT TIME A SURGEON, DURWARD G. HALL,

SERVING IN CONGRESS AS A REPUBLICAN FROM MISSOURI. HE

CONTENDED THAT THE PROPOSED MUSEUM SHOULD NOT BUMP

HOUSED IN THE SAME BUILDING

THE ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY, FROM ITS

PRESENT SIGHT. HIS WAS A VOICE CRYING IN

THE WILL) ERNESS OF MEDICAL UNCONCERN

IN WASHINGTON

LADY BIRD SOFTANSON WAS ANUTHER

VOICE HEARD IN THOSE DATES.

THE HIRSHIFORN ROUCECTION

WOULD ISE HOUSED ON THE

SITE OF THE OLD RED BRICK

130148/NG

UNFORTUNATELY, THROUGH KEY COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR THE HIRSHHORN MUSEUM TO BE

WAS PREPAREP.

ERECTED AS PLANNED BY THE WHITE HOUSE. UNFORTUNATELY,
AN EXPERT WITNESS WITH AN UNDENIABLE CONFLICTOR INCOME.

S. DILLION RIPLEY, SECRETARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN, UNDER

WHOSE JURISDICTION THE MUSEUM WOULD FALL, ARGUED THAT

THE SIGHT OF THE RED BRICK BUILDING WAS THE ONLY ONE OF

APPROPRIATE SIZE AND LOCATION FOR DISPLAYING THE

VALUABLE HIRSHHORN COLLECTION.

IN RESEARCHING THIS EPISODE IN WASHINGTON HISTORY, I

CAME ACROSS A HAND WRITTEN NOTE ON A DOCUMENT DATED

IN THE A-ROUMENT

JUNE 6TH 1971 SIGNED BY AN UNKNOWN PARTICIPANT THAT SAID,

"I HOPE A WHOLE IN THE EARTH OPENS UP AND SWALLOWS

RIPLEY AND HIRSHHORN.

THE REPOBLICAN CONORESSMAN, I SUST MENTIONED BUT

I AM IMPRESSED WITH DURWARD HALL, WHOM I NEVER KNEW.

ON ONE OCCASION HE SAID, "I HOPE AND PRAY THAT WE DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE AT GLORIFYING THE ARTS AT THE EXPENSE OF AN ART ITSELF-MEDICINE-AND I FEEL THAT IS WHAT WOULD ACCEPT THE SPECIFIC SIGHT RECOMMENDATION PROPOSED."

AS THE ARGUMENTS HEATED UP BETWEEN 1966 AND 1971, THE
HISTORY OF ACTIVITIES IN THE OLD RED BRICK BUILDING WERE
BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF CONGRESS OVER AND OVER

AGAIN, IN THE 1880S THE THEN NEW MUSEUM TURNED ITS

ATTENTION TO/THE CONQUEST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

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SOME OF YOU REMEMBER THE NAME DR. JOHN SHAW BILLINGS,
THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY AND THE MUSEUM'S
FOURTH CURATOR DURING THE YEARS OF 1883 TO 93. HE
AMASSED THE WORLD'S LARGEST COLLECTION OF ANTIQUE
MICROSCOPES, STILL IN OF THE ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF
PATHOLOGY.

HERMAN HOLLERITH DEVELOP AN ELECTRICAL SYSTEM TO SORT (P)

PUNCH DATA CARDS FOR THE NATIONAL CENSUS. THIS WAS THE FORERUNNER OF THE IBM CORPORATION SONT CONTRIBUTING TO THE REVOLUTION WE HAVE HAD IN INFORMATION RETRIEVAL IN THIS CENTURY.

ANOTHER SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY DR. BILLINGS BECAME THE INDEX MEDICUS, AND THE LIBRARY STARTED BY THE MEDICAL MUSEUM WHICH WAS THE ORIGINAL ARMY SURGEON GENERAL'S LIBRARY DID BECOME THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE.

IN THE 1880'S THE THEN NEW MUSEUM

HAD TURNED 17> AMENTION TO THE

CONQUEST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

IT WAS ALSO IN THAT BUILDING THAT THE INITIAL EXPERIMENTS

TISSUE
MICRO

WERE DONE ON STAINING AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT BOTH

OF WHICH MADE POSSIBLE MICROBIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY AS

WE KNOW IT TODAY.

IN THE EARLY 1900S WALTER REED AND HARRIS ASTERDE

GRAMONDE, DISCOVER THE MODE OF YELLOW FEVER

TRANSMISSION. THE PANAMA CANAL COULD NOT HAVE BEEN
BUILT WITHOUT THAT KNOWLEDGE.

I HAVE AN ESPECIALLY SOFT SPOT IN MY HEART FOR BILLINGS
BECAUSE IT WAS HIS RECOMMENDATION ON THE MARINE

THE
HOSPITAL SYSTEM THAT LED DIRECTLY TO ESTABLISHMENT OF

LO
THE COMMISSION CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC
HEALTH SERVICE, WHOSE UNIFORM I WORE WITH PRIDE FOR
EIGHT YEARS.

NOW I AM NOT OPPOSED TO ART IN ANY WAY AND I AM GLAD
THAT JOSEPH HIRSHHORN HAD THE FORESIGHT TO LEAVE HIS
TREMENDOUS COLLECTION AND ASSOCIATED FUNDS TO THE
UNITED STATES IN ORDER THAT THESE PRECIOUS, UNIQUE
OBJECTS COULD BE VIEWED BY ALL OF OUR CITIZENS.

ALTHOUGH I DO HAVE A LITTLE DIFFICULTY STOMACHING HIS

EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BUILD A HUGE BAGEL ON THE MALL,

PARDON THE PUN. WHAT I DO FRET AGAINST IS THE SHORT

SHRIFT GIVEN TO HEALTH IN EVERY PART OF THE GOVERNMENT!

FROM THE CHOINEY POUN TO DECISION ABOUT

MUSEUMS - HEALTH DOES NOT CET THE AMENTON

(7 DESERVE)

THEATRE AND IT MOVED IN 1887 TO THE OLD RED BRICK
BUILDING, ARCHITECTURALLY DESCRIBED AS ROMANESQUE
REVIVAL. THE STRUCTURE HAD BEEN LISTED ON THE NATIONAL
REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS UNDER THE ANTIQUE ACT OF
1906 BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR REDEFINED ITS STATUS,
CLAIMING IT WAS THE COLLECTION OF MEDICAL SPECIMENS
WHICH CONSTITUTED THE BUILDINGS IMPORTANCE, NOT THE
BUILDING ITSELF. ALL OF WALCOT PLACES SOME
QUESTION OF THE DEPT OF THE INTERIOR'S
REMEDIUM OF THE DEPT OF THE INTERIOR'S

YOU ALL KNOW THAT COLLECTIONS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ARCHITECTURE LANDMARKS. IT WAS THE PERSONAL URGING OF AND THE FIRST LADY LINDON JOHNSON, IN 1968 THAT GOT THE SMITHSONIAN OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT AS THE ONLY POSSIBLE SIGHT FOR THE NEW HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN, A PLACE WHERE THE OLD RED BRICK BUILDING STOOD.

THE ORIGINAL ARMY SURGEON GENERAL'S LIBRARY WHICH WAS ALSO HOUSED IN THE FORD THEATRE BECAME THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE AS I'M SURE MOST OF YOU KNOW, ITS COLLECTION OF BOOKS FORMED THE NIDUS AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARIES' ANTIQUE COLLECTION TODAY.

FOR NEARLY 80 YEARS THIS BUILDING HOUSED SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR AND OF COURSE BAZAAR EXHIBITS OF WASHINGTON. EVEN TODAY SOME OF THEM STILL ATTRACT THE SAME AMOUNT OF ATTENTION WHERE THEY ARE PRESENTLY HOUSED AT THE ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY ON THE GROUNDS OF WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER....

SUCH THINGS AS

OF SKULL FROM PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S FATAL WOUND.

SPEAKING OF ASSASSINATIONS, IT WAS CURATORS OF THE

MUSEUM WHO PERFORMED THE AUTOPSY ON PRESIDENT JAMES

GARFIELD FOLLOWING HIS ASSASSINATION IN 1881.

GARGELD

CONTROVERSY. THE NATIONAL GALLERY TODAY STANDS ON THE MAD SITE OF THE OLD BALTIMORE POTOMAC RAILROAD STATION. IT WAS IN THE MAIN LOBBY OF THAT STATION THAT PRESIDENT GARFIELD, IN OFFICE BUT FOUR MONTHS, WAS FATALLY SHOT BY AN ASSASSIN IN JULY OF 1981.

I HAPPEN TO THINK THAT IT WAS A GOOD TRADE TO GET THE NATIONAL GALLERY FOR THE RAILROAD STATION BECAUSE IN THE BACK OF THE STATION ITSELF, HANDSOME THOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, THERE WAS A TRAIN SHED THAT STRETCHED HALF WAY ACROSS THE MALL AND THERE WERE PILES OF COAL FOR THE ENGINES THAT HAD BECOME A SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE IN WASHINGTON.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TRADE OFF OF A STATION FOR THE NATIONAL GALLERY AND THE OLD RED BRICK BUILDING FOR THE HIRSHHORN WAS THAT THEY BUILT THE UNION STATION TO STATION TO STATION TO STATION TO STATION WHO HAS SEEN THE REFURBISHED UNION STATION KNOWS THAT IT IS A BUILDING THAT HAS LIFTED STANDARDS FOR RAILROAD STATIONS INTO AN ENTIRELY NEW WORLD.

WHEN THE OLD RED BRICK BUILDING WAS RAISED IN 1968 IT WAS ATTRACTING A MILLION VISITORS A YEAR. 36 MILLION VISITORS A YEAR COME NOW TO WASHINGTON AND WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OF THEM MIGHT HAVE BEEN ATTRACTED BY AN UPDATED SERIES OF EXHIBITS? WE KNOW THAT IT WOULD BE MORE THAN A MILLION, DON'T WE?

THE SAD FACT IS THAT LAST YEAR FEWER THAN 40,000 VISITORS
FOUND THEIR WAY TO THE SITE OF THE PRESENT MUSEUM
HOUSED IN THE BUILDING OCCUPIED BY THE ARMED FORCES
INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY ON THE GROUNDS OF THE WALTER
REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER. YOU REALLY HAVE TO BE
MOTIVATED TO JOURNEY NORTH ON GEORGIA AVENUE TO GET
THE AFIP.

IF YOU LIKE NUMBERS LISTEN TO THESE. THERE ARE STORED IN VARIOUS PLACES AROUND TOWN 325,000 HISTORICAL OBJECTS, 15,000 ANATOMICAL SPECIMENS, AND 2.2 MILLION ARCHIVAL PHOTOS, FILMS, AND DOCUMENTS. THE VALUE OF THE COLLECTION IS NEARLY HALF A BILLION DOLLARS. LESS THAN 2% OF THE COLLECTION IS ON DISPLAY DUE TO LACK OF SPACE IN THE CURRENT FACILITY.

15- THE DEAT OF THE INTERIOR, THE PASSIDENT JOHNSON AND THE FIRST LADY AND CONCRESS HAD HAD HAD AN UNDERSTANDAGE OF THE MUSEUMS

[OLCECTION A NEW MUSEUM COULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED FAIR

COULD OMY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED FAIR

LET IT BE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT JUST THE DISLOCATION OF EXHIBITS THAT WAS DISHEARTENING, IT IS THE FACT THAT IN 1968, IN AN ABSOLUTELY UNPRECEDENTED ACTION, AT TIMES I THINK RATHER SLEAZY IN CHARACTER, THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE LOST THEIR NATIONAL HEALTH MUSEUM.

IN THE NEW SITE AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE SPACE WAS LOST, STAFF WAS LOST, EXHIBITS AND COLLECTIONS DETERIORATED, VISITORS DECLINED IN NUMBER. IT IS INDEED SAD THAT 90% OF THE COLLECTIONS ARE FUNCTIONALLY INEXCESSABLE TO MEDICAL

PHYSICIANS, SCIENTISTS, AND SCHOLARS IN RESEARCH OR TO THE PUBLIC FOR EXHIBITION AND EDUCATION.

EDUCATION EXHIBIT WON THE FIRST PLACE AWARD FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL ILLUSTRATORS. MORE RECENTLY WE EXHIBITED ART WORK BY HEADACHE SUFFERERS SPONSORED BY THE SANDOZ COMPANY. THAT COLLECTION IS NOW ON LOAN, TRAVELLING ABOUT THE COUNTRY. FINALLY WE HELPED CHANGE THE NOTION OF HOW BONES HEAL THANKS TO THE RESEARCH ON THE MUSEUM SKELETAL COLLECTION.

CURRENT EFFORTS PROJECTED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE INCLUDE
THE MOVING THE AIDS EXHIBIT DOWN TO THE HUBERT
HUMPHREY BUILDING WHICH HOUSES HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, WORKING WITH THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH
ORGANIZATION TO PRODUCE A TRAVELLING EXHIBIT ON HEALTH
AND MEDICINE IN THE NEW WORLD FOR THE COLUMBUS
QUINCENTENNIAL IN 1992, AND BUILDING A HIGH TECH, VISUALLY
ORIENTED, EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PREVENTION INCLUDING ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TOBACCO AIMED
AT KIDS, TEENS, YOUNG ADULTS.

AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, WHEN I LEFT THE OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL SOFFICE I HAD INNUMERABLE REQUESTS TO DO WHAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED A CONTINUATION OF MY PUBLIC SERVICE. I ACCEPTED VERY FEW SUCH OPPORTUNITIES BUT I DID WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE.

WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY CAME TO CHAIR THE FOUNDATION'S DON NEUMAN, SECRETAM BOARD I JUMPED AT IT. I'M JOINED BY PEOPLE LIKE TED OF 11 45, COOPER, FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND NOW CHAIRMAN OF UPJOHN, DR. CAROLYNE DAVIS, NATIONAL AND ERNST A INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CARE ADVISOR FOR ANSTON YOUNG, TOO WILL RECALL SHE CAME IN WITH THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION.

I ENVISION A MUSEUM THAT IS GOING TO BE MORE THAN A
CURIO CABINET SUCH AS WE HAD IN THE 19TH CENTURY. I WANT
A STATE OF THE OF THE ART, INTERACTIVE, AND PARTICIPATIVE
MUSEUM THAT WILL EXCITE KIDS TO DEDICATE THEIR LIVES TO
SCIENCIE, MEDICINE AND HEALTH CARE.

WE'RE JUST AT THE STAGE OF GETTING PEOPLE TO

UNDERSTAND THE NEED. OUR 1990 GOAL IS \$350,000 DOLLARS.

WE RAISED \$125,000 DOLLARS IN 1989. WE ARE PLEASED THAT

SOME MAJOR DONORS HAVE CONTRIBUTED \$10,000 OR MORE AND

INCLUDE THE COLLEGE OF AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS, THE

AMERICAN REGISTRY OF PATHOLOGY, JOHNSON & JOHNSON, THE

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, HOFFMAN-LAROCHE, AND

FORMER DIRECTOR OF AFIR

COLONEL & MRS. MCMAKIN, WITH A MATCH FROM IBM.

I ENVISION A MUSEUM WITH ALL THE OLD THINGS THAT YOU
WANTED TO SEE STILL THERE, BUT WITH AT LEAST FOUR
INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT CLASSROOMS. THESE WILL BE IN
SIMULTANEOUS USE, USING INTERACTIVE VIDEO DISCS AND
COMPUTERS ENABLING A PROPER TEACHER TO CALL UP AS
MANY AS 64,000 EPISODES, TO ILLUSTRATE HIS TEACHING WITH A
DELAY OF NO LONGER THAN 10 SECONDS.

THERE IS ONE LAST SITE ON

THE MACC. IRONG THOUGH M

MAN SEEM 17'S JUST OPPOSITE

THE HIRSHITORN. THATS WHENG

I D LIKE TO SEE PLBUC AND

PRUMTE FUNDS BUILD THE

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF STEEN

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

DO YOU THINK I AM ENTHUSIASTIC, I AM. IF YOU THINK I WANT YOU TO JOIN WITH ME, I DO. LETS STRIKE A BLOW FOR HEALTH AND CORRECT THE INJUSTICES OF THE PAST. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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