

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

March 14, 1961

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Senator Lauterbach, at 10:00 A.M., with all members present except Senators Smith and Farmer.

Hearing was held on a line item contained in HB #381 appropriating \$5000 for razing of the old library building on the Statehouse grounds. Those attending the hearing appear on a list attached hereto.

Miss Shoner acted as spokesman for the group, and stated the following:

1. An organization will be formed, and the necessary money raised for restoring the building.
2. It is believed they will have enough money to keep the building up - they expect to raise enough money to restore the building and operate it for the first year.
3. The people of Topeka would then be asked to keep it up through a tax levy.
4. They do not expect to make it an elaborate project - have been promised part of the materials at cost, and expect to obtain the labor at cost.
5. They have \$5000 deposited in the First National Bank of Topeka in a trust fund for this purpose, and Mrs. Henry S. Blake assures them that \$10,000 will immediately be added to the fund if they are given some more time to organize and raise funds for this purpose.

Upon questioning by Senator Lauterbach, Miss Shoner stated they did not have the opinion of a competent architect as to the cost of remodeling, nor legal opinions as to the ownership of the ground or the building.

Senator Lauterbach stated he felt they should have the following:

1. Legal opinions as to ownership
2. Detailed estimate of an architect.
3. Plan for operation from the time the building is restored.
4. An organization should be in existence to take on and operate such an enterprise.

Miss Shoner stated that Mrs. Blake has a petition bearing

1500 names, and names of 35 organizations urging the saving of this building.

Mr. Fraser stated that he had a letter from the Shawnee County Historical Society, dated Dec. 10, 1952, containing a resolution by this group that this building should be saved. Copy of this letter is attached hereto.

Miss Shoner gave a written copy of her opening statement - copy of which is hereto attached.

Senator Hults moved that House Bill #144 which had been referred to this Committee be amended in Sec. 11, Line 1, by striking the figure \$840, and inserting in lieu thereof the figure \$1200. Motion seconded by Senator Sanborn, carried.

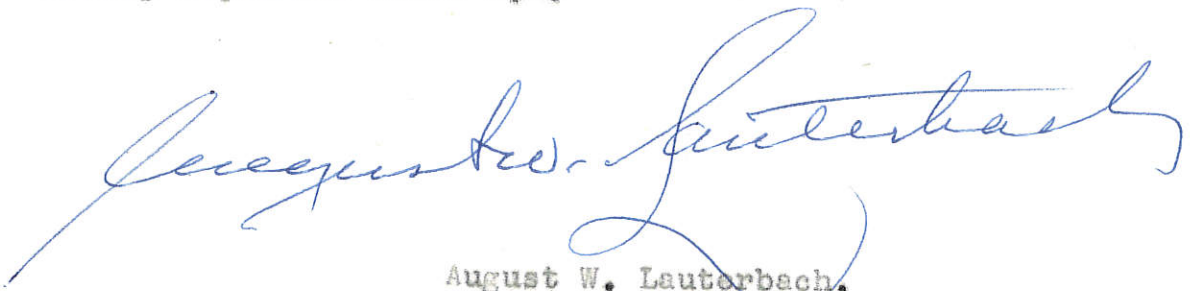
Senator Warren moved that House Bill #144 be recommended for passage as amended. Motion seconded by Senator Hults, carried.

Senator Warren moved that the bill providing creation of a Compact with the State of Missouri for transporting and incarceration of women prisoners be introduced. Motion seconded by Senator Ward, carried.

Senator Sanborn moved that House Bill #206 which had been referred to this committee be recommended for passage. Senator Ward seconded the motion, which carried.

Senator Sanborn moved that House Bill #411 which had been referred to this committee be recommended for passage. Motion seconded by Senator Ward, carried.

Meeting adjourned 11:00 A.M.



August W. Lauterbach,
Chairman

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Topeka, Kansas
December 10, 1952

Resolved by the unanimous vote of the membership of the Shawnee County Historical Society on this date assembled that the legislature be petitioned to not ask for the removal of the building now standing on the State House square and which is known as the Library Building.

Permission for its erection was granted the city by the legislature many years ago.

And, whereas, in view of the fact that there exists such an urgent need for housing of all kinds, we as citizens of Topeka and Kansas, feel that the destruction of this wonderful edifice would be most unwise. To replace it would cost many times the original outlay involved in its construction.

We in this age are too prone to destroy buildings which have so much more life within their sturdy walls. With some repairs and perhaps a sandblasting job this building would be a thing of beauty and a joy forever, if not forever, it would serve the community well for at least another 100 years.

We as an organization do not approve of the removal of this old familiar landmark from our midst and respectfully petition the legislature that this building, "our old friend and neighbor", be allowed to remain and carry on in the future.

Signed

s/ T. M. Lillard,
President

s/ Paul Adams,
Secretary

Hearing on House Bill #381 - March 14, 1961

Mr. W. E. Campbell, 2016 Florence St., Topeka, Kansas
Mr. V. V. Miller, 1314 Winfield, Topeka, Kansas
Miss Annie B. Sweet, 1621 Boswell, Topeka, Kansas
Mrs. Hampton Shirer, 105 Greenwood, Topeka, Kansas
Mrs. Beryl Johnson, 3717 West 17th
Miss Helen McClintock, 2421 Crestview, Topeka, Kansas
Mrs. Charles H. Martin, 3162 Shadow Lane
Matie Saylor, 630 Chester, Topeka, Kansas
Mr. Louis E. Fraser, 915 Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas
Mrs. Charles Zellars 2600 Ohio, Topeka, Kansas
Mrs. Homer Scott, 2124 Colorado, Topeka, Kansas
Mr. C. J. Baer, 1524 Randolph, Topeka, Kansas
Kathryn L. Cockerhan, 1207 Western, Topeka, Kansas
Miss Sarah Shoner, 1290 College, Topeka, Kansas

Senator Taggart

We have come here this morning, as representatives of a large group of Topekans who are interested in restoring the Old City Library on the Statehouse grounds to its former usefulness as THE Cultural Center of DOWNTOWN Topeka. We are asking that you grant us one year in which to do this, a matter of which we are confident can be done -- many Topekans waiting only to know that there is a definite plan, in order to contribute to the fund of its restoration.

As the cultural center of downtown Topeka, the art treasures which were formerly in the library, will be restored to the second floor, which will serve as an Art Museum. On the first floor there will be a reading room for all Topekans and visitors to Topeka who want a quiet place to sit while downtown. Situated as the library is, in the heart of downtown Topeka, this will serve as a boon to the many Topekans who do not own automobiles, and who find the bus service to the City Library in this day of limited service - a lengthy, tiresome trip. Especially, does this apply to older Topekans without cars.

There is on hand at the First National Bank of Topeka \$50,000, to which \$10,000 will be added immediately to restore the Old Library for the Cultural Center that it was throughout its long years of service - which ended less than nine years ago. In this way, it will serve all our people. Although there has been a suggestion to give it to some one special group, legally, it is said, the State of Kansas cannot do this.

I believe that its purpose as a cultural center for our city may be summed up in this statement which Dr. Karl Menninger wrote in a letter to the governor of Kansas, a carbon of which I hold in my hand. I quote: "It symbolizes in a very concrete way the aspirations of early citizens toward an informed and cultivated body politic. I am proud of them for the sacrifices they made to establish it, and I would like to see it there to remind us of how much better we should and could do today."

If you will grant us this request of one year's reprieve, we, the people of Topeka, will consider it our Centennial Project,