

Mr. Telle

DRAFT OF REMARKS FOR GOVERNOR'S USE AT PATRIOTS LUNCHEON, JUNE 28, 1976

ONE OF THE MOST HISTORIC LANDMARKS IN AMERICA AND ONE WHICH IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE ~~TO~~ SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE NATION -- BOTH FOR ITS HISTORY AND ITS ARCHITECTURE -- IS OUR OWN EXCHANGE BUILDING RIGHT HERE IN CHARLESTON.

THIS BUILDING PROVIDES TANGIBLE AND DRAMATIC EVIDENCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S DEVELOPMENT FROM A COLONY TO AN INDEPENDENT STATE / A STATE WHICH WAS FORERUNNER OF OUR AMERICAN REPUBLIC. THE EXCHANGE BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED ON THE SITE OF THE OLD WATCH TOWER AND COUNCIL CHAMBER, WHERE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL MET DURING THE PERIOD AROUND 1707 TO 1767. IT WAS BUILT ON THE SPOT WHICH HAD BEEN THE HUB OF POLITICAL AND CEREMONIAL EVENTS / AND AFTER ITS COMPLETION IN 1771 / IT CONTINUED AS A FOCAL POINT OF CEREMONY DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD. IN 1773 / A MEETING PROTESTING THE TEA ACT WAS HELD THERE. THIS / AND OTHER PROTEST MEETINGS HELD AT THE EXCHANGE / DEVELOPED INTO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, WHICH ADOPTED IN MARCH OF 1776 THE FIRST CONSTITUTION OF OUR STATE / AND WHICH BECAME OUR FIRST LEGISLATURE. JOHN RUTLEDGE, THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, / TOOK HIS OATH OF OFFICE / UNDER THE TITLE OF PRESIDENT / AT THE HISTORIC EXCHANGE BUILDING. FOLLOWING THE CAPTURE OF CHARLESTON BY THE BRITISH IN MAY OF 1780, THEY ESTABLISHED HEADQUARTERS THERE AND IMPRISONED MANY PATRIOTS IN THE DUNGEONS. ISAAC HAYNE, / SOUTH CAROLINA'S REVOLUTIONARY MARTYR, / WAS IMPRISONED IN THE EXCHANGE / AND LED FROM THERE TO HIS EXECUTION. FOLLOWING THE REVOLUTION,

SUCCESSIVE GOVERNORS WERE PROCLAIMED FROM THE STEPS OF THE EXCHANGE/
UNTIL THE CAPITOL WAS MOVED TO COLUMBIA. EVEN GEORGE WASHINGTON
WAS ENTERTAINED IN THE EXCHANGE AND SPOKE TO THE PEOPLE OF
CHARLESTON FROM THE PORCH OF THE BUILDING. THE EXCHANGE BUILDING
HAS APPROPRIATELY BEEN CALLED ^{The South's} SOUTH CAROLINA'S INDEPENDENCE HALL.

AS WE CELEBRATE THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATION/AND AS
WE REFLECT ON SOUTH CAROLINA'S GREAT ROLE IN FOUNDING THIS COUNTRY/
IT IS FITTING THAT THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE DIRECT THEIR BEST
EFFORTS TOWARD A FULL RESTORATION OF THIS GREAT STRUCTURE/WHICH
WOULD THEN STAND AS A CONSTANT AND DRAMATIC REMINDER TO FUTURE
GENERATIONS OF THE GREAT DEBT/OWED BY FREE MEN EVERYWHERE/TO THE
PATRIOTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA WHO SUFFERED MORE, /DARED MORE, /AND
ACHIEVED MORE DURING THE REVOLUTION THAN THE PEOPLE OF ANY OTHER
STATE.

Rebecca Motte Ad Reb *in hopes of having renovation*
State DAR *underway etc.*

~~EARLY IN ITS ORGANIZATION, THE SOUTH CAROLINA AMERICAN REV-
OLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION SET AS ITS PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE A
RESTORATION OF THIS GREAT BUILDING. WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE
PROBLEMS WHICH ATTENDED THE EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE COMMISSION,
THE REBECCA MOTTE CHAPTER OF THE DAR AND THE STATE DAR, AND OTHER
INTERESTED GROUPS TO BRING ABOUT A COMPATIBLE ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY
SUCH WORK COULD BE DONE. WHILE THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION
-- WHICH IS A CONDITION TO BE EXPECTED AMONG PEOPLE OF FIRM WILL
AND DEDICATION -- AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED ALONG THE WAY WHICH HAVE~~

Moultrie Remains -
Gods Blessings - Long Island Beach Club

BROUGHT US TO THIS MOMENT WHEN IT IS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE AND PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION, THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF OUR OWN STATE COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, HAS JUST ADVISED US THAT APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE FIRST \$100,000 OF FUNDING REQUIRED FOR THE EXCHANGE BUILDING PROJECT. WITH OTHER FUNDS IN VIEW, WE CAN NOW PROCEED WITH THIS HISTORIC RESTORATION PROGRAM, AND I MAY SAY THAT IT HAS BEEN A PERSONAL PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE OF MINE TO HAVE TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN BRINGING ABOUT A RESOLUTION OF THE SEVERAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ATTENDED THIS PROJECT TO THE END THAT WE MAY NOW MOVE FORWARD TO THE REALIZATION OF THIS GREAT DREAM.