

REMARKS OF SPEAKER CARL ALBERT
Opening of the Centennial Safe
January 19, 1976

Congresswoman Boggs, Senator Hatfield, Mr. Watts, Members of the Joint Committee and friends.

It is an honor for me to participate in this inspiring ceremony. The raising of the Bicentennial flags over the Congressional Office Buildings a few moments ago and the opening of this unique relic commemorating our Centennial celebration remind us how our country is steeped in historical traditions. The concept of the safe we open today came about through the actions of a dedicated patriot, Mrs. Charles Deihm. She was a remarkable woman, one of industry, creativity, and vision. After her husband died in the Civil War, she became a publisher and began to collect autographs and photographs of the leading political, business and civic leaders of her time, "men and women of mark." Placed in large albums, this memorabilia was preserved in this safe. The safe was first exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, and was the most publicized and famous of the various time capsules dedicated during the Centennial.

I think it is significant that Anna Deihm entrusted this safe to the Congress of the United States rather than a museum or some other institution. I can only surmise that Mrs. Deihm believed in the viability of the Congress as a continuing instrument of the people's will.

Our first Centennial was celebrated during the 1st Session of the 44th Congress under the Speakership of Michael C. Kerr of Indiana, with President Ulysses S. Grant residing in the White House. It was a time when the country had about 40 million inhabitants in 39 States and 8 Territories. We had developed from a predominately agricultural society to one with a substantial industrial base. We suffered but survived a terrible civil war and were in the process of reunifying the nation.

Now, as we begin to celebrate our second Centennial, this nation has expanded to over 215 million citizens. We have survived two world wars which threatened our very existence, as well as other military conflicts which strained the very fabric of national unity. We have attained a position of International prominence. We have taken great strides toward guaranteeing equality for all our citizens. We have grown from the days of the cotton gin and steam engine to the age of the computer and we have observed our frontiers expand from the wild west to outer space.

I think Mrs. Deihm would be proud of us and I know this safe and its valued contents will continue to remind us of our precious heritage and the dedication of the many people who have contributed so much in order that our country can remain strong, free and prosperous.

Thank you.

REMARKS OF SPEAKER CARL ALBERT
Opening of the Centennial Safe
January 19, 1976

Congresswoman Boggs, Senator Hatfield, Mr. Watts, Members of the Joint Committee and friends.

It is an honor for me to participate in this inspiring ceremony. The raising of the Bicentennial flags over the Congressional Office Buildings a few moments ago and the opening of this unique relic commemorating our Centennial celebration remind us how our country is steeped in historical traditions. The concept of the safe we open today came about through the actions of a dedicated patriot, Mrs. Charles Deihm. She was a remarkable woman, one of industry, creativity, and vision. After her husband died in the Civil War, she became a publisher and began to collect autographs and photographs of the leading political, business and civic leaders of her time, "men and women of mark." Placed in large albums, this memorabilia was preserved in this safe. The safe was first exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, and was the most publicized and famous of the various time capsules dedicated during the Centennial.

I think it is significant that Anna Deihm entrusted this safe to the Congress of the United States rather than a museum or some other institution. I can only surmise that Mrs. Deihm believed in the viability of the Congress as a continuing instrument of the people's will.

Our first Centennial was celebrated during the 1st Session of the 44th Congress under the Speakership of Michael C. Kerr of Indiana, with President Ulysses S. Grant residing in the White House. It was a time when the country had about 40 million inhabitants in 39 States and 8 Territories. We had developed from a predominately agricultural society to one with a substantial industrial base. We suffered but survived a terrible civil war and were in the process of reunifying the nation.

Now, as we begin to celebrate our second Centennial, this nation has expanded to over 215 million citizens. We have survived two world wars which threatened our very existence, as well as other military conflicts which strained the very fabric of national unity. We have attained a position of International prominence. We have taken great strides toward guaranteeing equality for all our citizens. We have grown from the days of the cotton gin and steam engine to the age of the computer and we have observed our frontiers expand from the wild west to outer space.

I think Mrs. Deihm would be proud of us and I know this safe and its valued contents will continue to remind us of our precious heritage and the dedication of the many people who have contributed so much in order that our country can remain strong, free and prosperous.

Thank you.

REMARKS OF SPEAKER CARL ALBERT
Opening of the Centennial Safe
January 19, 1976

Congresswoman Boggs, Senator Hatfield, Mr. Watts, Members of the Joint Committee and friends.

It is an honor for me to participate in this inspiring ceremony. The raising of the Bicentennial flags over the Congressional Office Buildings a few moments ago and the opening of this unique relic commemorating our Centennial celebration remind us how our country is steeped in historical traditions. The concept of the safe we open today came about through the actions of a dedicated patriot, Mrs. Charles Deihm. She was a remarkable woman, one of industry, creativity, and vision. After her husband died in the Civil War, she became a publisher and began to collect autographs and photographs of the leading political, business and civic leaders of her time, "men and women of mark." Placed in large albums, this memorabilia was preserved in this safe. The safe was first exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, and was the most publicized and famous of the various time capsules dedicated during the Centennial.

I think it is significant that Anna Deihm entrusted this safe to the Congress of the United States rather than a museum or some other institution. I can only surmise that Mrs. Deihm believed in the viability of the Congress as a continuing instrument of the people's will.

Our first Centennial was celebrated during the 1st Session of the 44th Congress under the Speakership of Michael C. Kerr of Indiana, with President Ulysses S. Grant residing in the White House. It was a time when the country had about 40 million inhabitants in 39 States and 8 Territories. We had developed from a predominately agricultural society to one with a substantial industrial base. We suffered but survived a terrible civil war and were in the process of reunifying the nation.

Now, as we begin to celebrate our second Centennial, this nation has expanded to over 215 million citizens. We have survived two world wars which threatened our very existence, as well as other military conflicts which strained the very fabric of national unity. We have attained a position of International prominence. We have taken great strides toward guaranteeing equality for all our citizens. We have grown from the days of the cotton gin and steam engine to the age of the computer and we have observed our frontiers expand from the wild west to outer space.

I think Mrs. Deihm would be proud of us and I know this safe and its valued contents will continue to remind us of our precious heritage and the dedication of the many people who have contributed so much in order that our country can remain strong, free and prosperous.

Thank you.