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PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

STATEMENT BY DOUGLAS HASKELL

Pennsylvania Avenue, as the "grand axis of the Nation," unites Capitol Hill and the White House while passing through Washington's downtown. Restoration of its dignity requires a planned three-dimensional framework in which private and governmental buildings can be attractively intermingled, to the enhancement of both the Capitol and the central city, "urbs et civitas."

1. THE AVENUE ITSELF

For clarity, fine terminal plazas at both ends; for honor, a new White House Gate in a new National Square; for ceremonial character, deep rows of trimmed trees, a distinctive pavement, wide sidewalks stepped up for viewing parades; for an agreeable boulevard, arcading of the whole north side by raising buildings on stilts, opening views into block-wide concourses, introduction of intermediate squares, cross-malls, and "pausing places"; for liveliness, an intermix of government buildings with office buildings, hotels, shops, restaurants, theaters, show rooms, galleries.

2. A NEW CIRCULATION SYSTEM

Relief of the Avenue from irrelevant traffic by the decisive innovation of using E Street directly to the north as (a) the feeder street to bring cars into the area from circumferentials; (b) the parking distributor facility from which cars are ramped down into two subsurface parking levels under the entire "northern triangle" area. E Street is recessed where required.

Beyond this there is another decisive innovation: the use of a flying deck or platform at mezzanine height as a terrace or balcony on which pedestrians can reach all 20 blocks without ever crossing wheeled traffic. Four continuous levels will make this the new "multi-level city."

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3. CITY CROSS-LINKAGE

Cross-axes and cross-malls, especially a major one at midpoint, at the Archives Building, to tie the new Pennsylvania Avenue to the new mall-like redevelopment zone of the private "Downtown Progress" organization of business men.

4. ARCHITECTURAL CONTROLS

Opposed to monotony but desiring order along the Avenue's north side, the Council proposes controlled height and a controlled arcade for buildings lining the Avenue: otherwise freedom. Inside the superblocks, an Avenue Authority must have power to control placement of buildings, gaining harmony as at Rockefeller Center in New York.

5. PRESERVATION

It is proposed that the Federal Triangle of the thirties be not only retained but cleaned out and completed; that the old "Post Office Tower" be retained but without its building; and that buildings which are obsolete and obstructive and without architectural merit, though old, be removed to allow scope to the future.

Douglas Haskell
Report Editor
President's Council on
Pennsylvania Avenue