

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 21, 1976

Linda Lackore
Garner-Hayfield Comm. Schools
Garner, Iowa 50438

Dear Linda,

Thank you for inviting me to your Bicentennial celebration. I regret very much that my schedule does not permit me to join you in Garner on May 25th. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in contributions to your time capsule.

I think that a time capsule is an imaginative and appropriate device for commemorating this important event because it serves to symbolize the relevance of the present to the future. A time capsule testifies that what we are doing today will be not only interesting but significant to those who come after us.

This testimony is in keeping with the spirit of our Founding Fathers. Men like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison openly acknowledged their obligations to posterity. They believed that what they were doing would have an impact on future generations -- not only in this country, but throughout the world. That vision resulted in a governmental system based on man's ability to govern himself that has lasted for two hundred years. In fact, that we are the planet's youngest people but one of its oldest active governments, is a monument to the future outlook of the leaders of 1776.

Of course, the philosophy and attitudes of 1776 cannot be transported unaltered to the world of 1976. Times and conditions change. The lines of development that characterized us as a people for two centuries -- aggressive geographic expansion, uninhibited economic growth, lavish use of resources -- are no longer useful or even possible. If we are to keep faith with posterity, it is important to act now to determine our goals for the future and to begin to chart the course that will achieve them. It is a source of great personal satisfaction and pride to me that some 50,000 citizens of our state began doing just that in "Iowa 2000" which I had the honor to propose some four years ago. We must build on this beginning.

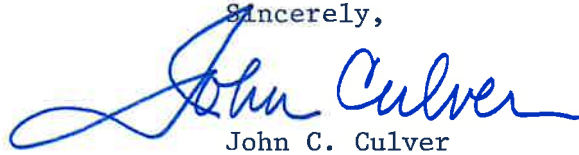
Years from now when this time capsule is unearthed, its viewers will undoubtedly discover some interesting historical artifacts and some items which seem to them quaint and archaic. But I hope they find more. I hope they find evidence of a generation of Iowans who looked ahead and acted to make life rich and more meaningful for their children and grandchildren. Events like this celebration which honor the heritage of our past, examine the conditions of our present, and lay the foundations for the future help make me optimistic that they will find that evidence.

Linda Lackore
May 21, 1976
Second Page

Once again, thank you for letting me join you in this way. I wish you every success in your Bicentennial commemoration.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


John C. Culver

JCC:mn:nn

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

OFFICIAL BUSINESS


U.S.S.

Mr. Harpel
for Time Capsule

Dr. D. W. Teigland, Superintendent
Garner-Hayfield Community Schools
Garner, Iowa 50438