

March 15, 1954

Senator Fred H. Kraft
Assemblyman Ralph Cloyed
Assemblyman Frank Luckel
Assemblyman Edwin Bulen

Dear Friends:

Mrs. Fletcher and I are leaving by boat from New York, with our daughter and grand-daughter, the first of May to visit the Mediterranean countries and to see our great-grandchild in Cairo, Egypt. While in Europe, we plan to stop off at Lisbon, Portugal.

As you know, the Cabrillo statue, valued at \$50,000, was given to the State of California by the President of Portugal and accepted by Governor Olsen. I believe there has never been an acknowledgement made and am asking that the State of California pass a resolution, with the seal of the state and the governor's signature, to be presented to the President of Portugal along with the City of San Diego's thanks (enclosed find article from this morning's paper in connection with the Cabrillo statue).

At the time the statue was presented to the State of California, Governor Olsen in turn gave it to the City of Oakland. As Cabrillo had originally landed in San Diego, I put through a bill giving the statue to San Diego, which was passed unanimously in the Senate but was killed in the Assembly. The statue was stored in a garage of a private party, located about five miles out of the City of San Francisco. I got that party to deliver the statue to me and had it shipped to San Diego, considering possession nine points of the law. Governor Olsen accused me of stealing the statue and twice demanded by letter that I return it to Oakland.

We first erected the Cabrillo statue in the U. S. Naval Station under guard and then moved it to its final resting place on Point Loma - U. S. Government property. The official records show that the Cabrillo National Park has the largest attendance of any national park in the United States.

I would appreciate it very much if the State could pass a resolution similar to the one I have enclosed so that I may have the pleasure of presenting said official resolution personally to the President of Portugal and copy to defree the sculptor. An early reply will be appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

EF:ls

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Nation of Portugal through the Consul-General, Honorable E. G. deCosta, has presented to the State of California a remarkable and invaluable statue of Cabrillo, and;

WHEREAS, San Diego was the first port of call in California by Cabrillo, and;

WHEREAS, the State of California is most grateful for this splendid gift and token of friendship, the State of California accepts this gift with reverence and deep appreciation and wishes to extend our thanks to the sculptor Alvaro deBree, who created this splendid work of art admired the world over, and President General Francisco Higinio Craveiro Lopes and Premier Antonio de Oliveire Salazar.

The State of California cordially invite you to come to California to see our beautiful state and particularly the Cabrillo National Park, Point Loma, San Diego, California, which has the largest attendance of any national park in the United States.

March 20, 1954

Senator Fred H. Kraft
Assemblyman Frank Luckel
Assemblyman Ralph Cloyed
Assemblyman Ed Bulen

Dear Friends:

Enclosed find copy of Resolution 117080 passed by the City Council on March 11, 1954. This will give you some idea of how the City feels, as you may wish to reword your Resolution, if any is passed, to conform.

I am also enclosing copy of Tribune article today for your information. If any resolution is passed or introduced, I have no objection in having my name mentioned in connection therewith.

My good friend of many years, Joe Beek, has a way of his own that I have always admired and may help in getting the wording of the resolution, if any action is taken.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

EF:ls
Enclosures

March 22, 1954

Dear Fred:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th and contents noted. Whatever you boys do is satisfactory with me.

Enclosed herewith find copy of article from the San Diego Tribune. I am sure that Joe will do the right thing.

I do appreciate what you are doing. Please let me have two or three copies of the Resolution as finally prepared. I do hope you don't have to have the Resolution go to a committee and that you can get the unanimous consent to act on it without any fuss or trouble.

With kindest personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

EF:ls
Enclosure

Senator Fred H. Kraft
State Capitol
Sacramento 14, California

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 15 Folder: 17

General Correspondence - Kraft, Fred H.



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