

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Press Release
For IMMEDIATE Publication

No. 1017
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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WILL OPEN
EXHIBIT COMMEMORATING CENTENNIAL
OF TERRITORY OF WASHINGTON, MAY 14

The Library of Congress will open an exhibition in observance of the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Territory of Washington on Thursday, May 14. The Honorable William O. Douglas, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, will deliver the principal address at the opening ceremony in the Coolidge Auditorium at 8:30 p.m., and the Honorable Warren G. Magnuson, Senator from Washington, will preside. The Librarian of Congress, Luther H. Evans, will introduce Senator Magnuson.

The Washington Territory, established on March 2, 1853, comprised the area from the Columbia River north to the Canadian border and from the Pacific coast east to the summit of the Rocky Mountains. This will be the sixteenth in the Library's series of exhibitions commemorating important anniversaries in the histories of the States, and it will be on view in the south gallery on the second floor of the Main Library Building through August 15.

Like previous exhibits in the series, the Washington Territory centennial exhibition will be arranged in two sections. A historical section will contain nearly 150 items relating to Washington, from the first explorations in the area to the early years of Statehood. And a photographic section will be composed of enlarged photographs of modern Washington.

In the historical section will be significant manuscripts, rare books, prints, early maps, paintings, and photographs from the collections of the Library, the National Archives, and the National Museum. The materials pertain to the explorations by Spanish

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navigators; the Pacific railroad and wagon road expeditions; Indian life; trading and military posts; homesteading; the beginnings of lumbering, fishing, and other industries; the creation of the Territory; and the attainment of Statehood.

The photographic section will depict modern Washington's cities and towns, power and reclamation developments, industry and transportation, historic landmarks, cultural life, and recreation areas. The photographs have been selected from the Library's collections and from those of the Agriculture and Interior Departments, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Washington State Advertising Commission, the Washington State Historical Society, and individual schools, colleges, museums, and other institutions in the State.

Among the documents relating to the period of exploration that will be in the exhibit will be a copy of Purchas his Pilgrimes (London, 1625), opened to the account of an alleged discovery of the Strait of Juan de Fuca in 1592 by a Greek sea pilot of that name who was in the Spanish service. Other published accounts of early voyages along the Washington coast that will be on view include those of Bruno Hazeta and Antonio Mourelle (1775), Capt. James Cook (1778), John Meares (1788-89), José Espinosa y Tello (1792), and George Vancouver (1792). Manuscript charts of the mouth of the Columbia River and of Gray's Harbor, dated 1793, will be displayed to illustrate the work of early Spanish cartographers.

Early American naval expeditions to the Northwest will be represented by the 1791 log book of Capt. Robert Gray's ship, the Columbia, and Capt. Joseph Ingraham's journal of the brigantine Hope, which contains his map, dated 1792, showing Washington's coast. These voyages stimulated American and British rivalry for possession of the area, which resulted in the Convention for Joint Occupancy, signed on October 20, 1818. The original of this Convention will be displayed.

The first United States Naval exploration and surveying expedition to the Northwest, led by Capt. Charles Wilkes in 1841, will

be documented by the journal kept by Joseph G. Clark, a mariner on Capt. Wilkes's flagship Vincennes. And Wilkes's own letter book, which includes letters sent from Puget Sound, will also be on view.

The first overland expedition to the Washington area, that of Lewis and Clark in 1804-06, will be represented by a large manuscript map made by Robert Frazer for publication with his diary. Also on view will be a letter that Capt. Benjamin L. E. Bonneville wrote to Gen. Alexander Macomb from the "Wind River" country in 1833, which advises immediate American occupation of the region north of the Columbia River.

Many of the exhibit items will relate to the explorations for a railroad route to Puget Sound in 1853. Isaac I. Stevens, who led the exploration and in the same year became the first Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs of the Territory, supervised the Cascade Mountain exploration by Capt. (later Gen.) George B. McClellan. A manuscript map of eastern Washington, dated 1857 and drawn by Gustave Sohon, a soldier-artist with the Stevens party, will be displayed. And colored lithographs of Washington military and trading posts and scenery, based on sketches by John M. Stanley, another artist with the expedition, and published in 1860 to illustrate Governor Stevens's report, also will be shown. Other records of these expeditions that will be exhibited include journals and notebooks kept by McClellan and J. F. Minter and watercolor portraits of Washington Indians painted by Lt. Johnston K. Duncan.

The transition from the period of exploration and trading to the homesteading era will be represented by Governor Stevens's engrossed treaty with the Indian tribes of eastern Washington, which was signed by President James Buchanan in June 1855, and Stevens's manuscript journal, 1855-56, as Superintendent of Indian Affairs. A manuscript copy of the resolution of thanks presented in 1861 by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory to Lt. John Mullan for his work on the

military road from Fort Benton to Walla Walla also will be exhibited.

Among the materials that reflect life during the Territorial period will be a series of photogravures illustrating Indian life and crafts, made from photographs taken in the years 1909-12 by Edward S. Curtis to illustrate his book, The North American Indian; photographs of historic buildings erected before 1870; manuscript plats of trading posts and military reservations; and photographs of forts made in 1858 during an inspection tour by Col. Joseph K. F. Mansfield. A minute book of the Council of Administration at Fort Vancouver, 1850-65, containing entries written and signed by Ulysses S. Grant as recorder, also will be on view.

Many documents will be displayed to illustrate Washington's progress from a frontier Territory to Statehood. Among them will be maps that show early settlements and surveys; guide books, published between 1857 and 1889, by Isaac I. Stevens, John Mullan, Asa S. Mercer, Ezra Meeker, Elwood Evans, and the Union Pacific Railroad; the first telegram from the Territory, sent by Gov. William Pickering to President Lincoln in 1864; late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century photographs of lumbering scenes and irrigation projects; and scrapbooks kept by Erastus Brainerd, secretary of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, which show the effect on that city of the Alaskan gold rush of 1897-98.

Documents relating to the Territory and to Statehood will include the first Journal of the House of Representatives, printed in Olympia in 1855; the first Statutes of the Territory, published in Olympia in the same year; the proposed constitution of the State, which was rejected by the voters in 1878; and a copy of the State Constitution, published in Olympia in 1889, the year Statehood was attained.

To the Editor:

For further details, call the Information and Publications Office, The Library of Congress, STerling 3-0400, ext. 605.

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Press Release

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May 15, 1953

JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS
SPEAKS AT WASHINGTON EXHIBIT
OPENING IN LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

"Washington and Manifest Destiny" was the theme of the address by the Honorable William O. Douglas, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, at the opening of the Library of Congress exhibition commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Territory of Washington last night (May 14). The Honorable Warren G. Magnuson, Senator from Washington, presided at the opening ceremony. He was introduced by the Librarian of Congress, Luther H. Evans. And following Justice Douglas's address, former Senator Harry P. Cain of Washington, president of the Washington-Alaska State Society, introduced Members of Congress and other distinguished guests in the audience.

In his introductory remarks, Senator Magnuson mentioned the fact that this is the first of two significant ceremonies to be held in Washington, D. C., this month in connection with the anniversary of the Territory of Washington. On May 22, a statue of Marcus Whitman, medical missionary to the Northwest, will be dedicated in the rotunda of the Capitol. Arrangements for the dedication ceremony, at which Justice Douglas will be the main speaker, are being made by the Honorable Hal Holmes, Representative from Washington, who will serve as master of ceremonies.

After the ceremony marking the opening of the Library's exhibit, the guests previewed the exhibition, which will remain on view in the south gallery on the second floor of the Main Library Building through August 15. This is the sixteenth in the Library's series of exhibitions commemorating important anniversaries in the histories of the States.

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Justice Douglas sketched in vivid detail the history of Washington from the period of discovery and exploration to the present. He discussed the Territorial period, the efforts toward and achievement of Statehood, and the political, social, and cultural developments of the State.

The early settlers, he said, had a "spirit of independence plus a deep-seated desire for self-government that resulted in the Territory of Washington being formed on March 2, 1853," when there were fewer than 4,000 white inhabitants in the area. "The Territorial period was not one of liberalism," Justice Douglas stated; the Legislature dealt mostly with such practical issues as improved mail service, drydocks, lighthouses, a survey of natural resources, improved highways, and better educational facilities. It was, however, the recognition by citizens of Washington of the importance of Alaska to America that instigated the negotiations that resulted in its purchase by the United States in 1867 for \$7,200,000. And the Territorial period did see Washington's industrial and agricultural importance to the Nation increase; women early achieved national fame in the Territory, for the first session of the Legislature considered a bill to grant the franchise to white women, which, although it failed to pass, was the beginning of 30 years of agitation for women's suffrage. ✓

Statehood was delayed for 36 years after the Territory was created, partly because the people's primary concern was with the building of new communities. Instead of closing the last frontier, the admission of Washington to the Union in 1889 opened a vast new frontier within her own borders, Justice Douglas said.

The Northwest had its counterpart of the agrarian unrest in the Middle West before the turn of the century. Populism, too, had a brief interlude. And the Justice pointed to a long line of liberal achievements in the State in the early 1900's, climaxed by amendments to its Constitution granting women the right to vote, providing for the recall of elective officers, except judges of courts of record,

and authorizing the initiative and the referendum. He also noted that during this period the State provided for a lien for unpaid wages; regulated insurance companies; provided maximum rates for common carriers; prohibited discriminatory rate practices; created a Bureau of Labor and a Railroad Commission; passed a direct primary law, a workmen's compensation law, and pure food and drug acts; and provided an 8-hour day for women workers.

"Washington has had an acute social consciousness," Justice Douglas said. "She has been more alive to it at some times than at others, and in this has not been different from her sister States. But Washington has a heritage of bold thinking and open-mindedness. It is a spirit which America needs to conserve as carefully as it conserves the forests, the mineral resources, and the water power."

The conflict between public and private power in Washington has been tumultuous, Justice Douglas stated. But, he said, "there has been a reluctance to turn the public domain over to private interests for exploitation. In Washington more than in any other State there has been a dramatic showing that public management of power (both municipal and federal) can bring great benefits to the people."

Prefacing his discussion of modern Washington and its "Manifest Destiny," Justice Douglas said: "In the beginning Washington, like other parts of the Pacific Coast, was an extension of empire--first Spanish, then British, and finally American. It was a source of trade and commerce, a military outpost, an approach to Asia. It is still all three." But it is the third of these that is significant for the future, he emphasized.

"Washington as an approach to Asia has a new strategic importance. Seattle is closer to Tokyo than it used to be to Walla Walla; closer to Alaska than it once was to Olympia. Seventeen hours to Asia will soon seem slow. With the new jet planes Asia will shortly be closer to Seattle on the Great Circle route than New York is at present. It is, I think, appropriate that we give pause to

these facts. A Centennial is the appropriate occasion not only to review the past but to take bearings for the course ahead. 74

"The heritage of a people is not only their resources but their ideas, their spiritual strength. We know the measure of a community by its tolerance for minorities, its willingness to accept the dissenting vote, its eagerness to learn. Washington stands well by those standards. Her tradition of radicalism is a healthy influence. It is a challenge to the status quo, to every vested interest, new or old."

"The forces that once seemed regional, sectional, or national now have global aspects. There is a manifest destiny that is pulling the world closer together and demanding, whether we like it or not, a real world community. The gulf between Asia's civilization and ours is wide and deep—so much so that there are not only misunderstandings on both sides of the Pacific but bankruptcy in almost every political move we make. This is a challenge that is timely and fitting."

That challenge is more than an academic or philosophical concern, Justice Douglas pointed out. "The recurring crises in West-East relations make imperative that we arrive at an understanding basis with Asia. It is a challenge to scholars in all fields. And there is no more appropriate place to lay the challenge than in Washington."

"Washington," the Justice said in concluding his address, "has a manifest destiny. She helped give this country a national consciousness at a time when it was inclined to sectional and regional interests."

"Washington has been a pioneer in social legislation, alert to injustices inflicted on people and communities by dominant groups, among the first to regulate against abuses business projects affected with a public interest, quick to realize that the benefits of the great waterways, such as the Columbia, and the power sites should be dedicated to all the people."

"Washington now is in a strategic position to help give direction to our new internationalism, to help make it intelligent, practical, and responsive to the needs of both the West and Asia. This too is her manifest destiny."

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THE GOVERNOR'S INVITATION TO EMIGRANTS. A slim volume containing "A Circular Letter to Emigrants Desirous of Locating in Washington Territory" is one of the items in the Library of Congress exhibition commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Territory. The exhibit will be on view in the Library, May 14--August 15. Shown above are the title page and the first page of a letter written from Washington, D. C., by Isaac Ingalls Stevens at the time he was the Territorial Delegate in Congress. He had been the first Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs of the Territory. The book, which is in the Library's Rare Books Division, also includes a letter, dated at Olympia, November 17, 1857, from Gov. Fayette McMullin of the Washington Territory to the editors of the Pioneer and Democrat. In it he extols the Territory's climate, health, agricultural resources, and the importance of Puget Sound in Asiatic Trade.