The Honorable Oscar L. Chapman  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Oscar:

First I want to thank you (a) for the invitation to the Air Pollution Conference (b) for your courtesy in having me as your guest at the Conference banquet and (c) your enthusiastic endorsement of the proposed national monument and statue of democracy.

I had a very satisfactory conference with Mr. Demaray, Mr. Drury, (?) and others. The theme, the treatment and the general idea received their very favorable comment, as no doubt has been reported to you.

Discussion of the possibility of seeking token contributions for the monument from other democracies brought up the question of protocol. As a result I had - through the courtesy of your office - a very pleasant call on Mr. Spruks, assistant protocol officer of the State Department. Mr. Spruks declared there was nothing involved in the proposal calling for checking with or supervision by the State Department.

I found Drew Pearson most sympathetic to the idea and appreciative of its world-wide significance. He expressed the idea that fund raising might meet with some regional or provincial jealousy and offered some appreciated suggestions about a national sponsoring committee - a matter I already had in mind. He said he would be glad to give it recognition when the project gets farther along.

I am now directing my thought to the practical problem of raising funds.

I am not clear what your response was to my suggestion that you be honorary chairman of the sponsoring committee. I wish you would give me the assistance of your name in that capacity. If "protocol" forbids it, can you give me a letter giving the idea your blessing?

Any plan that is perfected will have full safeguards for all funds raised and all expenditures. Perhaps I can get one of the leading financial men to serve as treasurer.
All you be free to offer any suggestions?

My best wishes go with you and the President in these coming days.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

JOHN ANSON FORD

JAP:mlb

P.S. I visited the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials again. Superb as always! But I think your department's Jefferson Memorial descriptive folder is not up to its subject. Both the photos and text should be improved. And it should be the same size as the Lincoln folder, I think.
Dear John:

It was a pleasure to discuss with you, the other day, the project which is now taking shape to create on the west coast, near Los Angeles, a national and international memorial symbolizing the theme of democracy uniting the world. I congratulate all who have had a part in this conception and share with others who are familiar with the preliminary plans, the hope that the project may come rapidly to full realization. Such a memorial, in a sense, a west coast companion to the Statue of Liberty, could express the fundamental aspirations of all Americans for democracy and peace in a manner worthy of our country, and could provide a source of inspiration for peoples far beyond our borders.

I wish you every success in your undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Oscar

Secretary of the Interior

Mr. John Anson Ford
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Copy to: History Division (by NPS)
Regional Director, Region Four (by NPS)

Each with copy of Mr. Ford's ltr of 5/8/50