

Washington, D. C.

Shrine of America's Past—Symbol of Its Future

Washington, D.C. is one of the few cities of the modern world specifically planned as the capital of a national government. For all of us, it is a living tribute to the American Way.

With these impressive color photographs, Coronet takes you to the heart of Washington, in the first of a colorful new series featuring America's cities.



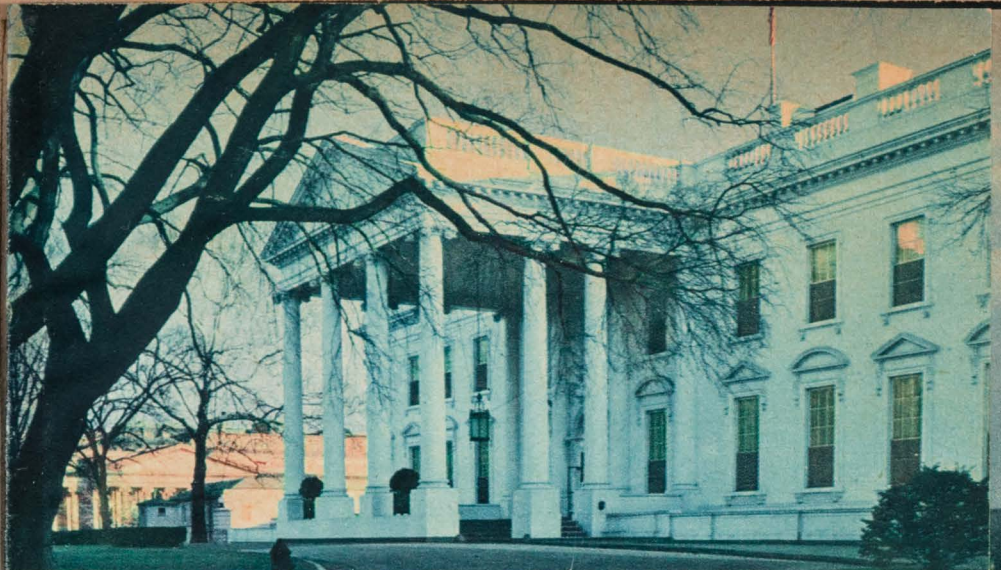
Picture Story

THE CAPITOL BUILDING AT NIGHT





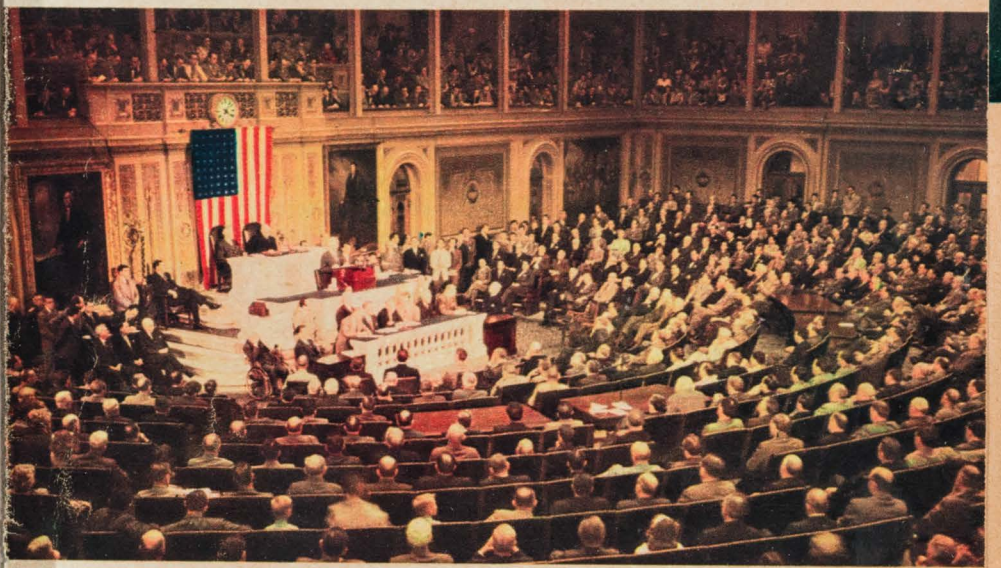
In this airview of Washington, D.C., the Capitol building appears as the center of a governmental semicircle. From left to right around it are the Senate Office Building, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and the office building for the House of Representatives.



Among Washington's most beautiful buildings is the White House, on Pennsylvania Avenue. Although not gaudy or ornate, it is comparable to the finest houses of state in the world. The home of the first family, it is linked by a corridor to the Executive Office Building.



This is an aerial view of the famous Pentagon building, nerve center of the War Department during the War, and one of the largest and most amazing office buildings in the world. Here over 30,000 men and women were employed to handle the War's countless details.

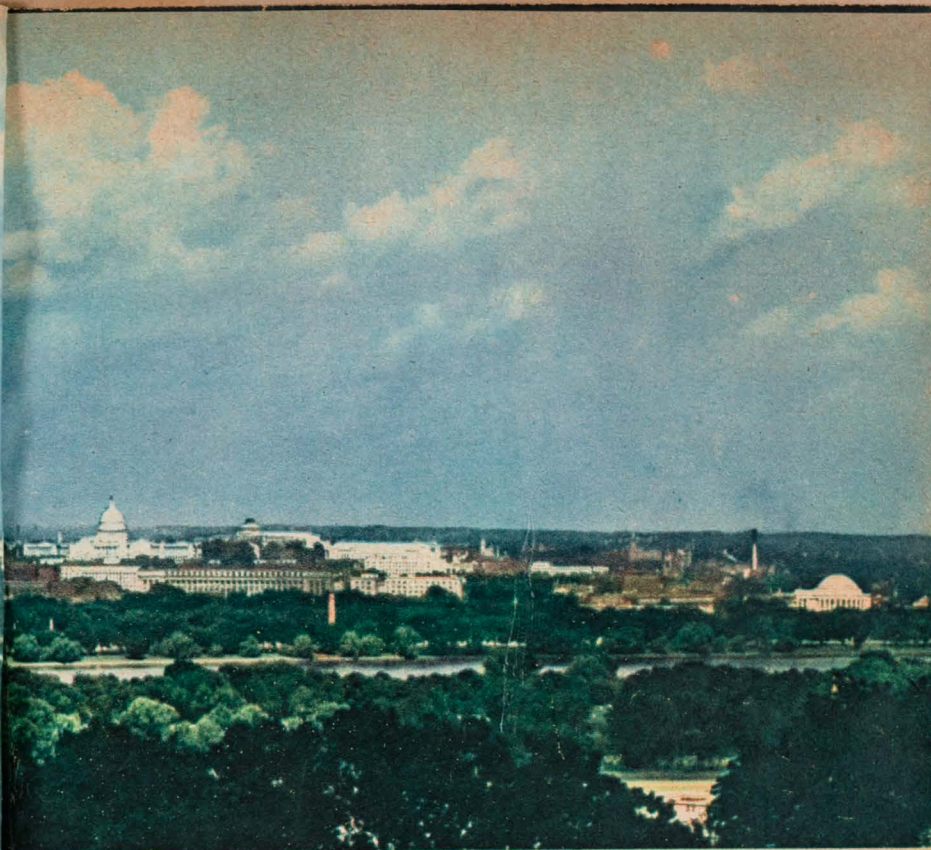


In the time-honored chamber of the House of Representatives, Washington offers its most impressive spectacle—the climax of our government in action. Here the President has come before both houses of Congress to present his annual report on the state of the Union.



From across the Potomac you can, on a clear day, see the city of Washington spread out in magnificent cross section. Beginning with the shining whiteness of the Lincoln Memorial on your left, your eye travels along the line of the Reflecting Pool to the simple, towering obelisk which is the Washington Monument. From here you look down the river, past the Capitol building, to the domed brilliance of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

This cross section view reveals the real personality of Washington. Unlike any other city in the nation, it was built expressly for government and as a shrine to our national heroes. The classic proportions of the government buildings impart to our capital city an air of dignified efficiency. And the many monuments supply an atmosphere of reverence which gives fuller meaning to the history of our country. Together, they add greater reality to the fact that whatever your home State may be, it is inseparable from Washington, D.C., for this is not only a capital city but the meeting place of the entire nation.

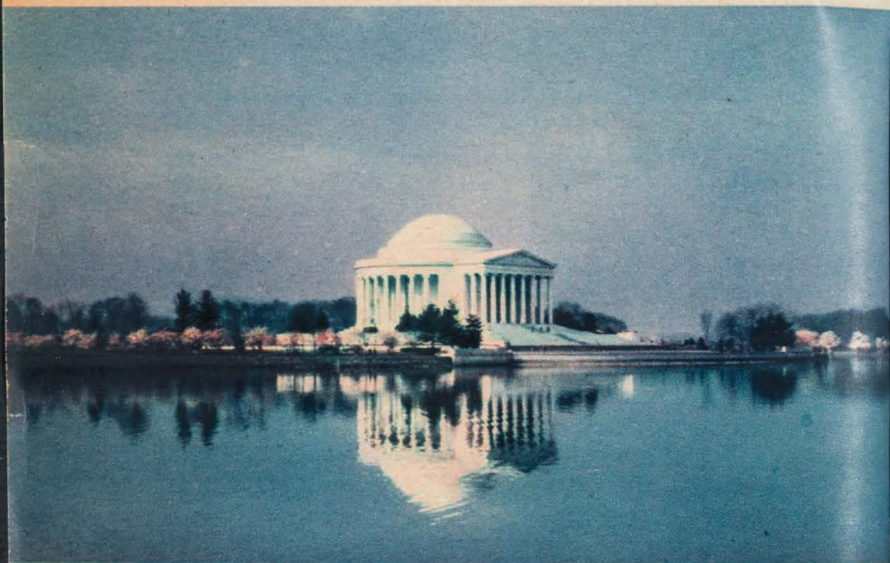


George Washington, himself, selected the main site of our capital city. He chose a Frenchman, Pierre Charles L'Enfant, to design one of the most beautiful and distinctive capital cities in the world. And though the city of Washington has expanded tremendously since its founding, the French engineer's basic plan remains. The Capitol building, from which three main streets and the Mall divide the city into four parts, is still the center of L'Enfant's original rectangle and the core of Washington's present splendor.

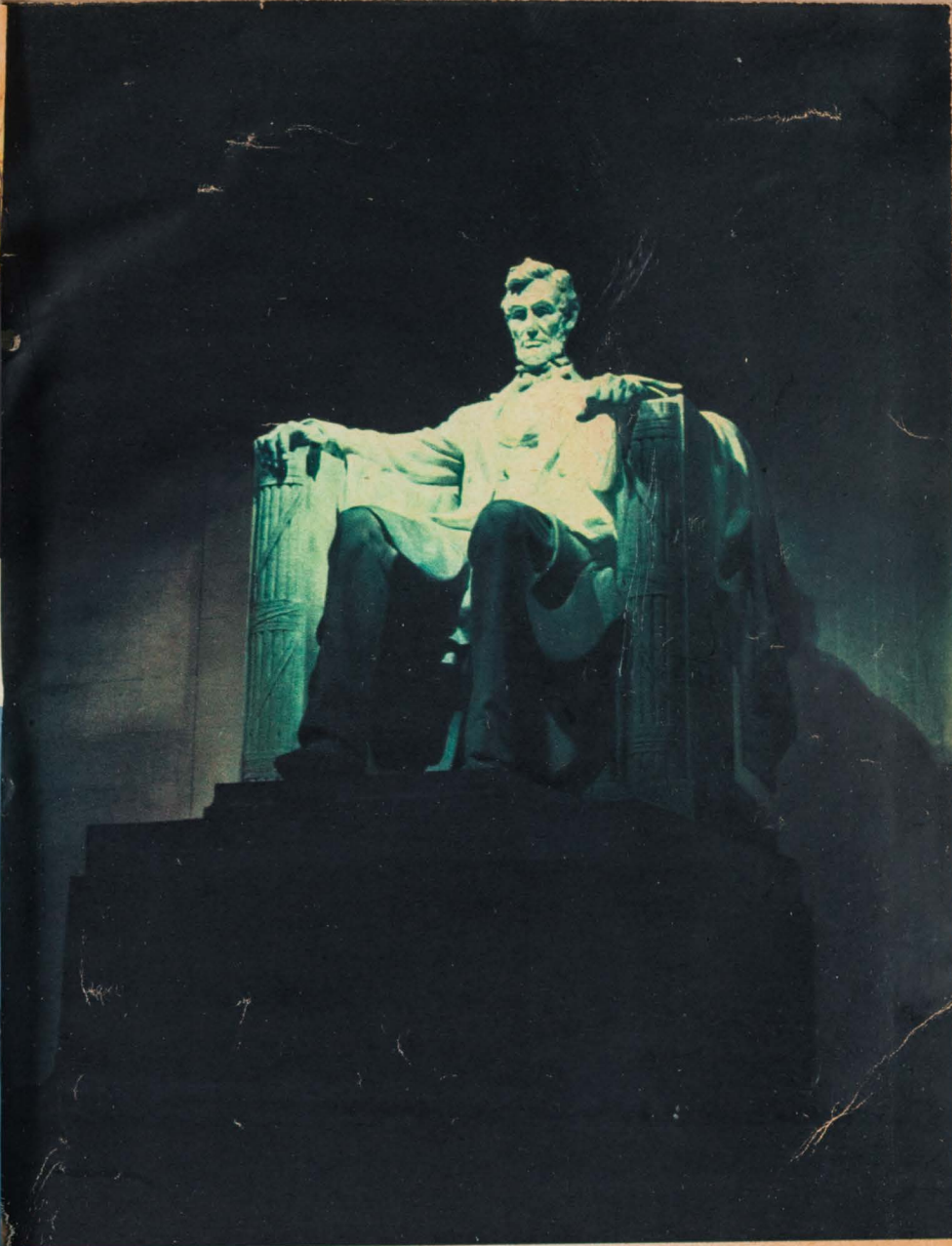
The broad avenues of Washington, the mile after mile of luxuriant trees which border them, the many green and flowered parks, the row upon row of marble-fronted buildings gleaming in the sun, the important-looking crowds, and the colorful flags of the foreign embassies flying in the wind, leave the visitor to Washington with the unmistakable impression that the Capital of the United States is one of the loveliest and most pleasurable spots on earth—the impression which George Washington wished the first city of the country to convey as long as it should endure.



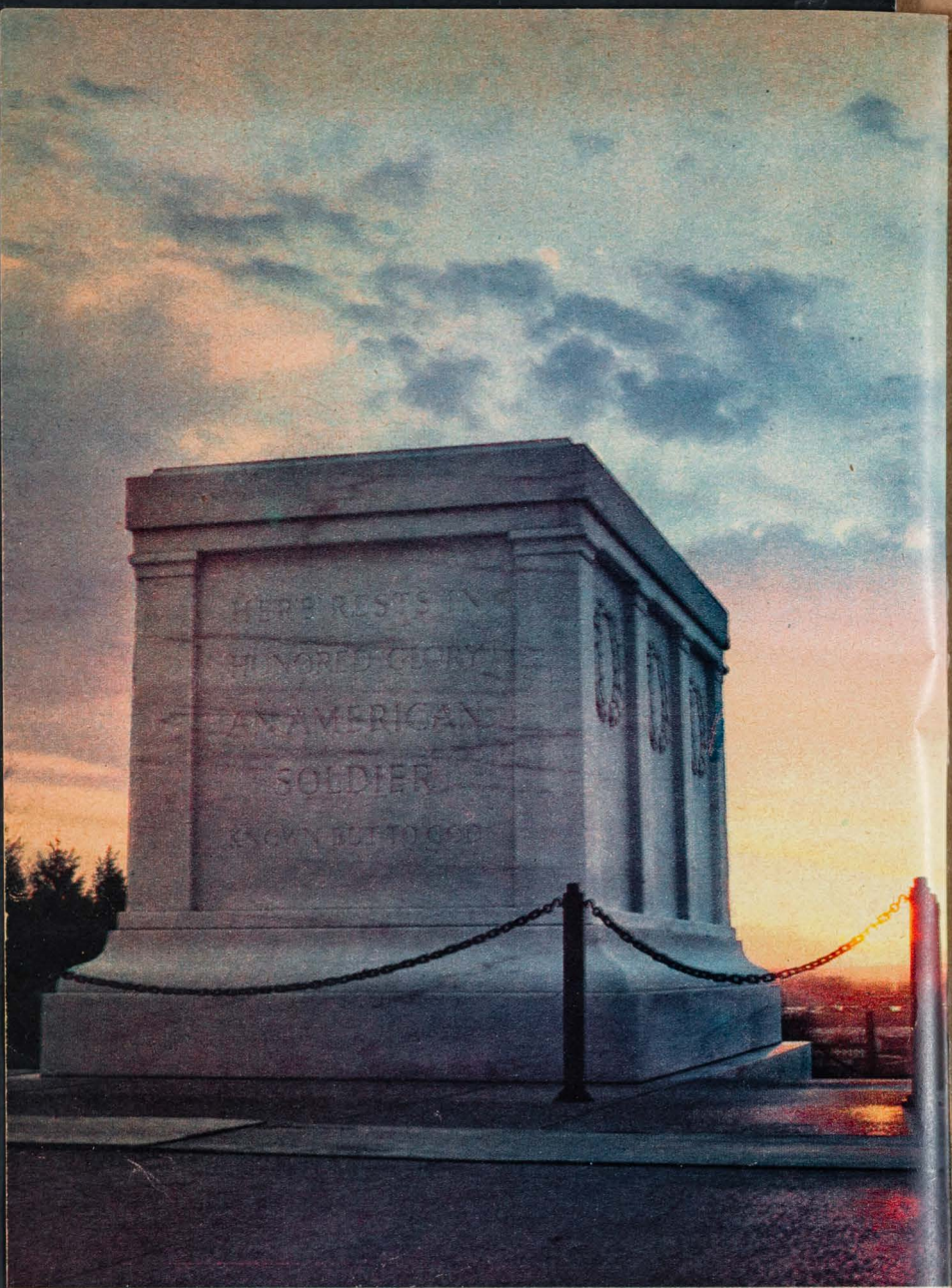
Silhouetted against the early evening sky, the statue of General Grant faces the George Washington Monument across the Mall. Such monuments and tributes as these symbolize the spirit of Washington, D.C., as a national shrine dedicated to the heroes of our history.



The classic memorial to Thomas Jefferson, dedicated in April, 1943, is one of the most recent of these tributes. Inscribed around its walls are the words by which he lived: "I have Sworn upon the Altar of God Hostility against Every Form of Tyranny Over the Mind of Man."



Inside the Lincoln Memorial, Abraham Lincoln looks down at you, and it seems as if the words of his immortal speeches, carved into the walls, give strength to this temple-like place, as you stand here sharing the quiet contemplation with the other Americans at your side.



November 11, 1946, is the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Soon to be joined by a nameless hero of World War II, it is one of Washington's most significant memorials, for it speaks of the men who died that our way of life might live.