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S. HRG. 104-40

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE



HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

ON

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE



MAY 11 AND 18, 1995

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THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION: MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1995

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Ted Stevens, chairman, presiding.

Present: Senators Stevens, Ford, and Pell.

Staff Present: Christine Ciccone, Deputy Chief Counsel; Mark C. Mackie, Chief Counsel; Virginia C. Santahol, Chief Clerk; and Kennie L. Gill, Special Counsel for the Minority.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. TED STEVENS, CHAIRMAN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA

The CHAIRMAN. I want to welcome our distinguished panel of witnesses, General Charles Sweeney, the only pilot who flew on both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki missions and was the commander of the Nagasaki mission; Colonel Charles Cooper, the director of publications for The Retired Officers Association; Mr. Herman Harrington, the chairman of the National Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion; Mr. R. E. Smith, national president of the Air Force Association; and Mr. Bob Manhan, assistant director of legislation for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The hearing today and the one next Thursday on the Smithsonian's future management practices are held as a result of the controversy over the Smithsonian's *Enola Gay* exhibit originally scheduled to open this month. Museums play a crucial role in our society. The processes of our democracy enable succeeding generations to judge actions taken by those who exercised sovereign power before they arrived. Museums are essential to this process and we must preserve the artifacts of our past. Those artifacts, together with facts proven at the time of the decisions, permit judgments of history to be fair and unbiased.

We are here today because the Smithsonian decided to present an interpretation of the history of the *Enola Gay*'s historic flight. The veterans in this country reacted strongly, for good