An Essential Saving

Now that Congress is going ahead with a large new Senate Office Building, there is less reason than ever to mutilate the Capitol. While this does not solve the problem of master-planning Congressional space, it does take off some of the pressure and obviate the need for immediate violence to the Capitol's West Front. Approval of this beleaguered and misguided plan to extend the West Front, which is to raise its weary head again this week, would now be an act of purely gratuitous destruction.

Dismissal of the scheme can be looked at as a way of carrying out a splendid economy, of establishing overdue respect for the nation's leading landmark, or just of restoring a breach of faith with the American people. But with the decision to proceed with the new office building, there is now no urgent necessity to carry out so gross and irreparable an error of judgment. Sense and sensibility should finally prevail.