

United States Senate

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 15, 1971

(Mrs.) Marguerite A. Hart
Young People's Librarian
Troy Public Library
5044 Rochester Road
Troy, Michigan 48084

Dear Mrs. Hart:

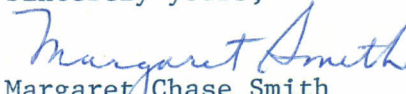
The opening of a new community library is always a happy occasion. Congratulations to the good people of Troy, Michigan, for carrying forward America's tradition of public libraries -- a tradition that is making available centuries of accumulated wisdom to men and women in all walks of life. Nowhere is the desire for knowledge by our fellow citizens better expressed than in their support for public libraries.

President Eisenhower eloquently stated the importance of libraries in a letter to the President of the American Library Association dated June 24, 1953:

"... The libraries of America are and must ever remain the homes of free, inquiring minds. To them, our citizens--of all ages and races, of all creeds and political persuasions--must ever be able to turn with clear confidence that there they can freely seek the whole truth, unwarped by fashion and uncompromised by expediency. For in such whole and healthy knowledge alone are to be found and understood those majestic truths of man's nature and destiny that prove to each succeeding generation, the validity of freedom."

I fully concur with President Eisenhower's belief that there is an inseparable connection between freedom and knowledge. Troy's new library must inevitably make this connection stronger.

Sincerely yours,


Margaret Chase Smith
United States Senator