

The first major addition to the Capitol since 1859, the visitors center is slated to cost \$265 million and be completed by January 2005—just in time for the next presidential inauguration.

The price tag could increase by as much as \$10 million if CPC members approve construction of a proposed tunnel that would connect the center with the Library of Congress.

Thus far, fundraising concerns have not affected the project's estimated start date, but that could change if funds are not collected by year's end.

"If we had to wait for the fundraising, potentially, yeah, it would need to be moved back, but I don't think that's in anybody's head right now," the CPC member's aide said. "I think it's too soon to be talking about that."

Former Rep. Vic Fazio (D-Calif.), who sits on the fund's board of directors, said the organization has donations "in the pipeline," even though they are unable to publicly announce them.

"How much people will decide to give, if they decide to give, is something that's still being discussed," said Fazio, who championed the project when he was in the House. "Nobody could have predicted, and we still couldn't tell you for sure how much money could be raised for such a purpose."

Maria Titelman, president of the fund, said the organization is raising money, although she too was unable to release any estimates or talk publicly about possible donations.

"I think that we're very excited about where we're going," Titelman said. "We're raising money as quickly as we can on an accelerated schedule. We'll get to our \$100 million as soon as possible."

The bulk of the remaining \$65 million will be raised through the sale of commemorative coins. Funds raised from the sale of two bicentennial coins in the late 1980s have now reached \$30 million, and the CPC expects to make another \$5 million to \$10 million from the sale of two coins set to be released by the U.S. Mint this spring.

For their part, Members and key staffers on both sides of the aisle remain committed to the project.

"The entire leadership and CPC remain very committed to this and very enthusiastic about it," said Ted Van Der Meid, an aide to Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.).

Van Der Meid also noted that last week's shooting incident at the White House "reaffirms one of the main purposes for the visitors center."

To assist with their efforts, the fund has hired outside fundraising consultants Wyatt Stewart & Associates and The Bonner Group. Also advising the fund is Steven Briganti, president and CEO of the foundation that funded the restoration and preservation of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

The fund's board of directors will hold its next meeting March 8, at which time it may have a better idea of monetary commitments from corporations.

"It's premature to make any statement about what we will be able to accomplish because there are a number of things being considered right now by a number of foundations," Fazio said. "Whether or not we can get to the original goal, I think, remains to be seen. It's not going to be an easy task to do that."

If the fund is not able to reach its initial goal, Fazio said, it will rely on more public money.

"I have not objected to the effort to raise private funds, and I've been part of that ef-

fort, but I certainly would hope that if we are only so successful at that, that we would then fall back on additional appropriations to make it happen," Fazio said. "The most important thing is it not be something that is delayed or underdone."

Former Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), also a member of the board, said he has always favored Congress appropriating the funds needed to build the center.

"So far as this mixing of private and public money, I never have much liked that," Bumpers said in an interview last week. "I thought if it was a good idea, we ought to fund it with public funds."

Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), co-chairman of the CPC, said in a prepared statement, "At this time I feel that it would be premature to make any final decisions regarding the appropriation of additional funds for the Capitol visitors center. However, I recognize that because of the importance of this project, it is essential that we keep all of our options open."

Sen. Bob Bennett (R-Utah), chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee on the legislative branch and a member of the CPC, said he would consider appropriating more money for the project if it was needed.

"I haven't given any thought to what happens if [the current fundraising framework] won't work," Bennett said. "But if it becomes clear that it won't work, then I would take a look at an additional appropriation."

However, Rep. John Mica (R-Fla.), a CPC member and one of the most vocal supporters of the visitors center to date, he is against appropriating more taxpayer money.

"I don't think we need any more public money and particularly at this stage," Mica said. "At some point if we have to beef up the private fundraising efforts or help assist them in any way, there's plenty of muscle power that can raise that money, particularly Members who unabashedly raised hundreds of millions for campaign efforts."

Outside of revisiting the public funding debate, the CPC can also explore other private fundraising options because its agreement with the fund is not exclusive. The CPC could begin to accept private donations directly or it could set up another organization to raise private money for the project.

One thing that has been a roadblock for the fund's efforts thus far is the issue of public recognition.

From the outset, most Members of Congress have been adamantly opposed to the idea of naming portions of the visitors center after corporate sponsors, and the leadership and the fund have differed on the ways in which corporations can receive public recognition for the donations.

"This is too important a part of our history," Bumpers said. "We're not going to name this the MCI visitors center or any of those things."

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR LOST LOVED ONES IN HAWAII

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I express my sincerest sympathies to the fami-

lies of those who have lost loved ones in two unrelated incidents involving the U.S. military in Hawaii during the past week.

On Friday afternoon, the U.S.S. *Greenville* collided with the *Ehime Maru*, a Japanese fishing vessel. I join President Bush in expressing my regret to the people of Japan for this tragedy. My heart goes out to the families of the nine people who are still missing following this incident.

On Monday evening, two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters crashed during a training exercise at the Kahuku Military Training Area, resulting in six deaths. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and units who are mourning the loss of their loved ones. I also wish a speedy recovery to those soldiers who are recovering from injuries sustained in this accident.

I am certain that the investigations into these incidents will be thorough and comprehensive. But my purpose today is not to question why these incidents occurred, but to express the genuine sadness and concern that I share with the people of Hawaii and the rest of the nation over these two unfortunate episodes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. EDWARDS). The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. AKAKA pertaining to the introduction of S. 329 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. AKAKA. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the distinguished chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. HATCH, is going to be coming over on a matter of ours. He is not here yet. I ask unanimous consent that I be able to proceed on a different subject as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.