

records the tastes and social conditions of a certain period in the city's history;

- b) a normal human reluctance to change a familiar part of our landscape;
- c) the commercial objection which fears a reduction in the drawing power of this magnet for attracting tourists to the shops, stores, restaurants, etc. of Old Town.

To answer these in reverse order: Is commerce more important than religion? Is our moral disintegration so advanced that we are willing openly to put the dollar sign above the cross?

There is perhaps no answer to the sentimental, human attachment for relics of times past. An ox-cart is more picturesque and safer than an automobile; yet I see none tied to the parking meters of Albuquerque. The same can be said for fireplaces instead of central heat and air conditioning, or for candlelight instead of electric light. It might be interesting to note, though, from the history of this building that changes have been made which have altered the interior or exterior appearance or both at intervals which average thirty-five years. It has been *traditional* that over the years when needs changed and improvements were called for they were made.

As concerns the alteration of an historic "monument" to serve present needs: this has been done many times before. Indeed, the most sacred and venerable church in all Christendom was pulled down to make way for a new one. From the time of the Emperor Constantine until the fifteenth century there stood in the city of Rome a basilica dedicated to St. Peter. It was an ornate and sumptuous building, encrusted with porphyry, mosaics, having an almost Byzantine richness and mystery. Pope Nicholas V decided to tear down this building — said to be built by Constantine himself — and replace it with a new church suited to and expressing the emergence from the Dark Ages and the glory of the Christian Church. Imagine, if there had been an "Old Vatican Advisory Committee" and if they had prevailed Western civilization would have been deprived of one of its greatest monuments.

I am not comparing our plans with those of Michelangelo, but the principle is the same and it is just as important here, in 1966, as it was in Rome in 1505. The people of Rome had faith in their clergy, artists, and architects. We are asking the people of Albuquerque to show the same faith.

John W. McHugh, AIA



## W. Miles Brittelle, Sr. is named a MEMBER EMERITUS

The Secretary of the American Institute of Architects has informed W. Miles Brittelle, Sr. of his election to the status of *MEMBER EMERITUS* of the Institute. Mr. Brittelle has been active in the AIA for many years. He has served on national committees as well as having been elected to vari-

ous chapter offices. He served as president of the state chapter when this magazine was first published in 1958. For the past six years he has been the advertising director of NMA, and he continues faithfully in that position.



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