The 100th anniversary of the arrival of Carl Schurz in the United States was observed at an inspiring ceremony in Paul's Church in Frankfurt Sept. 17. Schurz, after involvement in the unsuccessful German revolution of 1848, left in 1852 for the United States where he became a Union general in the Civil War, a US senator from Missouri and secretary of the interior. At the centennial ceremony sponsored by the Steuben-Schurz Society of Frankfurt, the principal speakers were Mr. Donnelly, Franz Bluecher, German vice chancellor, and Dr. Walter Kolb, mayor of Frankfurt.

The Legacy of Carl Schurz

Address

By Walter J. Donnelly

US High Commissioner for Germany

HERE, IN the Paul's Church, rebuilt upon the frame and foundation of the past, we get a feeling that Germany's opportunities for the future are excellent, despite the challenges, present and pending, which surround us.

Let us remember where we are: Within a few hundred yards of your famous cathedral; across the street from the world-renowned Roemer, symbol of the medieval majesty of Frankfurt and trade-mark of your city; only a few steps away from the birthplace of your greatest literary figure, Goethe; close to acres of devastation caused by the war, and within sight of many new buildings. We seem to be at a point in space and time which represents Germany's past, present and future.

In such a setting and with such a frame of mind, I am grateful for the opportunity of bringing the greetings of my government to this audience and for the privilege of following the remarks of your mayor and the vice chancellor with a few comments about Carl Schurz.

IT IS PLEASANT also to report, as we meet here, that in the United States too the attention of thousands of persons is being directed to Carl Schurz and his almost incredible achievements. During the many months of preparation for this centennial, your scholars and ours, I am certain, have devoted much time and research to a study of the man whose genius and versatility were so great that they fill us with admiration.

He was a loyal, sensitive German; a school teacher's son and a scholar in his own right. Spiritually, he was related to the heroes who fought to enlarge human liberty during the revolution in the American colonies and in France. He fought for a noble cause here — and lost. Then, like so many others who preceded and followed him, he became a reluctant American. Reluctant in the beginning, because his heart was still in Germany.

But he learned that the struggle for human freedom goes on continually in every arena and there are opportunities everywhere to fight for the better life. He absorbed in a period of months a knowledge of America's history and literature which itself is a measure of his genius. Within a remarkably short time he emerged as a famous editor, lawyer, minister, statesman, general and secretary. For a man to come to a strange land where a strange language is spoken and then to become pre-eminent in six different professions is a career which can only fill us with wonder.

LIKE ALL of you, I am delighted to share in the heritage of Carl Schurz. In this centennial year the writers and speakers all over the world quote from Carl Schurz' writings or will recount his achievements — from immigrant to minister in less than 10 years — from beginner to master of the written English language in the same brief period — from hesitant conversationalist to famous orator — all in so short a time. But he was also a warm and friendly human being who knew and endured suffering; whose greatest desire was neither for glory nor for recognition for himself, but rather a
determination to make life easier and happier for the common man.

We all know what happened to the democratic revolution in 1848. Generations later it appeared to be only a footnote to your history. Political unity came to Germany. The industrial revolution made this a great industrial country. In the age of imperialism and technology Germany had become a great world power. It was not immediately evident that the road her leaders had chosen would engulf Germany in two disastrous world wars.

We can only wonder how different Germany's history might have been if Schurz and his friends had succeeded 100 years ago.

Today, we see Germany arising from the ashes of the catastrophe brought about by Nazism. We are impressed by the desire of the vast majority of Germans to establish here a country which is democratic, economically sound and dedicated to friendly international cooperation - the sort of country which Carl Schurz tried to establish here 100 years ago. The world is watching with great fascination the operation of your new Federal Republic. It is watching Germany assume the rights of full partnership in the free world. But it is watching also to see whether Germany will now assume her just share of the political responsibilities which are ever the burden of all democracies. This latter task is something which your people must undertake of their own free will.

If Carl Schurz were alive today he would probably not come to the United States. It is my impression that he would find here in Germany a challenge for his great powers which would induce him to devote his life to creating the kind of nation about which he dreamed in 1852.

He would sense, instantly, I am certain, that the grim cost of the last war to Germany was not only in the millions who lost their lives; not only in the devastation which has left many areas desolate. Schurz would know that Germany must regain the respect in which this land had been held for centuries as a result of the achievements of her composers, musicians, painters, writers, scientists and philosophers.

A MODERN Carl Schurz would happily dedicate his life to the establishment of the spiritual and social scene which would make Germany a gathering place for men of good will and constructive purpose from all over the world.

Schurz would also realize from his firm grasp of history and from his love of freedom that Communism and Nazism are twin children of totalitarianism to be fought with all the weapons of reason, and he would wish to stay here to prevent their resurgence.

He would discover a great many things which would delight him. For one thing, he would see in Bonn - the city where he was a student and where he began his revolutionary activities - the seat of a federal republic.

He would, I believe, look at the national constitution and find it to be inspiring. He would see in your legislative halls representatives who were as determined as he to establish here an enduring democracy and carry out the will of the people.

Carl Schurz would find no unanimity of agreement about how the new government should be strengthened but he would find, for the most part, persons who held honest and honorable differences of opinion as to how the goals should be obtained. The important thing he would discover, I am sure, is that his countrymen are determined that democracy in Germany must work; that it should be a united nation; that it should unite with other free nations in the great and enduring enterprise of the democratic world. Schurz, I am sure, would be inspired by the first and most impressive manifestation of Europe's desire for union and peace, the Schuman Plan and by its assembly's meeting in Strasbourg to draft the first European constitution.

He would see, as all of us observe, that Germans have lost neither the desire to create nor the will to work. We would be awed, I am certain, at the speed at which reconstruction is taking place.

I am certain that Carl Schurz would also rejoice at the number of persons who are going abroad to study and learn from the best there is of Western civilization. I think also, when he learned how many million Germans had emigrated to the States between 1848 and 1932, he would regret the loss which the homeland sustained in persons of genius and talent and of democratic instincts.

At the same time, I believe he would have found in the German contribution to American democracy proof that democracy can flourish here. And, I believe, he would help his government to inspire its leading scholars.