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OA/ID Number: 13484
Folder ID Number: 13484-010

Folder Title:
Mellon Dinner, 4/27/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	15	6	7

**REMARKS: ANDREW MELLON DINNER
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989
9:45 P.M.**

**TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY, MEMBERS OF THE
CABINET, MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.**

**THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, AND FOR YOUR
GENEROUS WELCOME. AND I WANT TO SAY WHAT A PRIVILEGE
IT IS TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING.**

- 2 -

**((IN PARTICULAR, LET ME SAY A WORD ABOUT THIS
DISTINGUISHED AUDIENCE. I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE
SO WELL DRESSED SINCE I WENT TO A COME-AS-YOU-ARE PARTY
IN KENNEBUNKPORT.))**

**WE GATHER, YOU AND I, IN AMERICA'S CATHEDRAL OF THE
ARTS. AND WE MEET TO SALUTE AN AMERICAN ART COLLECTOR,
PHILANTHROPIST, FINANCIER, AND PUBLIC SERVANT.**

**IN THAT CONNECTION, I WANT TO SAY A SPECIAL THANKS
TO PAUL MELLON.**

- 3 -

HIS GENEROSITY HAS HELPED CREATE THIS PRICELESS GALLERY. AND AS A LONGTIME WASHINGTONIAN, HE, AS MUCH AS ANYONE, WILL RECALL HARRY TRUMAN'S FAMOUS QUOTE: "IF YOU WANT A FRIEND IN WASHINGTON, GET A DOG."

WELL, THIS GALLERY ALREADY HAS A WONDERFUL FRIEND: THE FAMILY OF PAUL AND ANDREW MELLON. AND, TODAY, THAT FAMILY IS MAKING NEW FRIENDS FOR ART ACROSS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

- 4 -

WE SEE THOSE FRIENDS WITHIN THESE HALLS. IN THE EYES OF A LITTLE GIRL, ENTRANCED BY THE MAGIC OF DEGAS' ((DAY-GAHZ)) FOUR DANCERS. OR THE SMILE OF THE ELDERLY WOMAN WHO FINDS SOLACE IN COLE'S VOYAGE OF LIFE. OR THE TWO ART STUDENTS WHO DEBATE, NOT ALWAYS QUIETLY, JACKSON POLLOCK'S ((POL-UCK)) LAVENDER MIST. TO THEM -- TO US -- THESE WORKS SPAN THE GENERATIONS. FOR ART IS TIMELESS; IT ENHANCES THE GENTLER IMPULSES OF MANKIND.

- 5 -

IN AN ABIDING SENSE, ANDREW MELLON EMBODIED THOSE IMPULSES. YES, HE DID WELL -- OUR SECOND-LONGEST-SERVING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY; A MAN OF ENORMOUS WEALTH AND POWER. BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, LET US REMEMBER: HE ALSO DID GOOD.

YES, SHY AND SOFT-VOICED, ANDREW MELLON WAS MODEST, UNASSUMING. BUT FEW MEN HAVE CONTRIBUTED MORE TO AMERICA'S CULTURAL QUALITY OF LIFE.

- 6 -

TO THIS CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY, PHILANTHROPY SPOKE OF JUSTICE, INVOLVEMENT, AND LOVE OF COUNTRY. FOR HE BELIEVED CHARITY TO BE AMONG THE HIGHEST PLANES OF PATRIOTISM. ABOVE ALL, ANDREW MELLON KNEW THAT WE ARE A NATION, AND A FAMILY. AND FIFTY-TWO YEARS AGO, HE DONATED HIS COLLECTION, AND BUILT THIS BUILDING, FOR US, AS MEMBERS OF THAT FAMILY.

- 7 -

TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, THIS COLLECTION REMAINS AMERICA'S FAMILY HEIRLOOM. AND IT SHOWS TOO THAT IN JUDGING ART, BELIEVE ME, EVERYONE'S AN EXPERT.

W.W. WOOLLCOTT RHYMED, FOR INSTANCE: "IN PART I PULL NO Highbrow STUFF; I KNOW WHAT I LIKE, AND THAT'S ENOUGH."

LESS LYRIC, BUT MORE ACERBIC, WAS MARK TWAIN.

- 8 -

ONE HUNDRED AND TEN YEARS AGO, HE OBSERVED, "IF THE OLD MASTERS HAD LABELED THEIR FRUIT, ONE WOULDN'T BE SO LIKELY TO MISTAKE PEARS FOR TURNIPS."

AND, FINALLY, LET ME RECALL HOW A KINDERGARTEN TEACHER ONCE CONDUCTED A PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST. HOW? BY SETTING HER STUDENTS TO WORK CARVING SOAP.

"WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?" SHE ASKED ONE STUDENT. "A PANDA," THE CHILD REPLIED. A SECOND GIRL RESPONDED, "DOG."

WELL, FINALLY, THE TEACHER CAME TO A LAD WHOSE WORK DEFIED DESCRIPTION. "WHAT'S THIS?" SHE ASKED. "SOAP FLAKES," SAID HE.

SEE WHAT I MEAN? WHEN IT COMES TO ART, LIKE POLITICS, THERE'S NO MISTAKING OUR OPINIONS. WELL, WHEN IT COMES TO THE MELLON COLLECTION, THERE'S NO MISTAKING AMERICA'S OPINION.

ANDREW MELLON NEVER LIVED TO SEE THE DEDICATION OF THIS BUILDING. BUT HIS SPIRIT LIVES TODAY.

IT REAFFIRMS AMERICA'S DECENCY AND KINDNESS. AND IT CELEBRATES WHAT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, DEDICATING THIS GALLERY, TERMED "THE RELATION BETWEEN THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY, AND THE OLD INHERITED TRADITION OF THE ARTS."

MY FRIENDS, TO ENHANCE OUR COUNTRY AND ENNOBLE THAT TRADITION -- THIS IS OUR CONTINUING MISSION AS AMERICANS.

- 11 -

SO LET US MEET IT, AND THEREBY HONOR ANDREW MELLON.
AND LET US HELP ART ENRICH AMERICA -- SO THAT AMERICA
CAN ENRICH THE WORLD.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME, AND FOR THIS WONDERFUL
EVENING. GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 04/20/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MELLON DINNER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached was forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1000 APR 20 10 7:11

April 20, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*
THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
SUBJECT: ANDREW MELLON DINNER REMARKS

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, April 27, you will address the fourth Andrew Mellon Dinner in the Rotunda of the National Gallery of Art, West Building. You will speak after dinner. The audience will consist mainly of several hundred past and prospective donors of art to the museum.

II. DISCUSSION

The text contains references, humorous and serious, to Andrew Mellon's career, with special emphasis on his philanthropy. It focuses on his life and legacy as a humanitarian, and his contributions to art.

(Smith/Simon)
4/20/89; 6:30 pm
Draft Four
MEL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANDREW MELLON DINNER
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989

Trustees of the National Gallery, Members of the Cabinet,
Members of the Congress, Distinguished Guests.

Thank you for that introduction, and for your generous
welcome. And I want to say what a privilege it is to join you
this evening.

((In particular, let me say a word about this distinguished
audience. I haven't seen so many people so well dressed since I
went to a come-as-you-are party in Kennebunkport.))

We gather, you and I, in America's cathedral of the arts.
And we meet to salute an American art collector, philanthropist,
financier, and public servant.

In that connection, I want to say a special thanks to Paul
Mellon. His generosity has helped create this priceless Gallery.
And he, as much as anyone, will recall how in his father's final
year as Secretary of the Treasury, an apocryphal tale gained
popular currency.

One day, the story went, Andrew Mellon was walking down the street with President Hoover. Suddenly, the President stopped. "Andy," he said, "I came out this morning without a cent in my pocket. Lend me a nickel, will you? I want to call up a friend."

With that, Andrew Mellon paused and reached into his pocket. "Here's a dime," he said. "Call up both of them."

Well, Andrew Mellon was a friend of art. And, today, he is making new friends for art across the United States of America.

We see those friends within these halls. In the eyes of a little girl, entranced by the magic of Degas' [Day-GAHS] Four Dancers. Or the smile of the elderly woman who finds solace in Cole's Voyage of Life. Or the two art students who debate, not always quietly, Jackson Pollock's Lavender Mist. To them -- to us -- these works span the generations. For art is timeless; it enhances the gentler impulses of mankind.

In an abiding sense, Andrew Mellon embodied those impulses. Yes, he did well -- our second-longest-serving Secretary of the Treasury; a man of enormous wealth and power. But, more importantly, let us remember: He also did good.

Yes, shy and soft-voiced, Andrew Mellon was modest, unassuming. But few men have contributed more to America's cultural quality of life.

To this captain of industry, philanthropy spoke of justice, involvement, and love of country. For he believed charity to be among the highest planes of patriotism. Above all, Andrew Mellon knew that we are a nation, and a family. And fifty-two years ago, he donated his collection, and built this building, for us, as members of that family.

Today, more than ever, this collection remains America's family heirloom. And it shows too that in judging art, believe me, everyone's an expert.

W.W. Woollcott rhymed, for instance: "In part I pull no highbrow stuff; I know what I like, and that's enough."

Less lyric, but more acerbic, was Mark Twain. One hundred and ten years ago, he observed, "If the old masters had labeled their fruit, one wouldn't be so likely to mistake pears for turnips."

And, finally, let me recall how a kindergarten teacher once conducted a psychological test. How? By setting her students to work carving soap.

"What are you working on?" she asked one student. "A panda," the child replied. A second girl responded, "Dog." Well, finally, the teacher came to a lad whose work defied description. "What's this?" she asked. "Soap flakes," said he.

See what I mean? When it comes to art, like politics, there's no mistaking our opinions. Well, when it comes to the Mellon Collection, there's no mistaking America's opinion.

Andrew Mellon never lived to see the dedication of this building. But his spirit lives today. It reaffirms America's decency and kindness. And it celebrates what Franklin Roosevelt, dedicating this gallery, termed "the relation between the whole people of this country, and the old inherited tradition of the arts."

My friends, to enhance our country and ennoble that tradition -- this is our continuing mission as Americans. So let us meet it, and thereby honor Andrew Mellon. And let us help art enrich America -- so that America can enrich the world.

Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful evening. God bless you, and God bless America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/19/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

COB 4/20/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MELLON DINNER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>STUDDERT</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>BATES</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>McBride</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by close of business Thursday, April 20. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 APR 19 11:10:2

(Smith/Simon)
April 18, 1989
Draft Three
MEL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MELLON DINNER
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
APRIL 27, 1989

Trustees of the National Gallery, Members of the Cabinet,
Members of the Congress, Distinguished Guests.

Thank you for that introduction, and for your generous
welcome. And I want to say what a privilege it is to join you
for this occasion.

Woody Allen

In particular, let me say a word about my ~~traveling~~
~~companion~~ . . . I refer, of course, to Barbara. I can testify
that the ~~Silver Fox~~ wouldn't have missed this evening for all the
paintings in the universe. After all, it was Andrew Mellon who
observed that "Gentlemen prefer bonds."

We gather tonight in America's cathedral of the arts. And
we meet to salute an American art collector, philanthropist,
financier, and public servant.

In that connection, I want to say a special thanks to Paul
Mellon. His generosity has helped create this priceless Gallery.
And he, as much as anyone, will recall how in Herbert Hoover's

final year as President, a whimsical tale gained popular currency.

One day, the story went, Hoover was walking down the street with his Secretary of the Treasury. Suddenly, the President stopped. "Andy," he said, "I came out this morning without a cent in my pocket. Lend me a nickel, will you? I want to call up a friend."

With that, Andrew Mellon paused and reached into his pocket. "Here's a dime," he said. "Call up both of them."

Well, Andrew Mellon was a friend of art. And, today, he is making new friends for art across the United States of America.

We see those friends within these halls. In the eyes of a little girl, entranced by the magic of Degas' [Day-GAHS] Four Dancers. Or the smile of the elderly woman who finds solace in Cole's Voyage of Life. Or the two art students who debate, not always quietly, Jackson Pollock's Lavendar Mist. To them -- to us -- these works span the generations. For art is timeless; it enhances the gentler impulses of mankind.

In an abiding sense, Andrew Mellon embodied those impulses. Yes, he did well -- ~~among our greatest Secretaries~~ *dedicated the longest serving* of the Treasury; a man of enormous wealth and power. But, more importantly, let us remember: He also did good.

Yes, shy and soft-voiced, Andrew Mellon was modest, unassuming. But few men have ^{contributed} done more to ^{cultural} make America ~~s~~a better, quality of life more decent place.
1

To this captain of industry, philanthropy spoke of justice, involvement, and love of country. For he believed charity to be among the highest planes of patriotism. Above all, Andrew Mellon knew that we are a nation, and a family. And fifty-two years ago, he donated his collection, and built this building, for us, as members of that family.

Today, more than ever, this collection remains America's family heirloom. And it shows too that in judging art, believe me, everyone's an expert.

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And, finally, let me recall how a kindergarten teacher once conducted a psychological test. How? By setting her students to work carving soap.

"What are you working on?" she asked one student. "A panda," the child replied. A second girl responded, "Dog." Well, finally, the teacher came to a lad whose work defied description. "What's this?" she asked. "Soap flakes," said he.

See what I mean? When it comes to art, like politics, there's no mistaking our opinions. Well, when it comes to the Mellon Collection, there's no mistaking America's opinion.

Andrew Mellon never lived to see the dedication of this building. But his spirit lives today. It reaffirms America's decency and kindness. And it celebrates what Franklin Roosevelt, dedicating this gallery, termed "the relation between the whole people of this country, and the old inherited tradition of the arts."

My friends, to enhance our country and ennoble that tradition -- this is our continuing mission as Americans. So let us meet it, and thereby honor Andrew Mellon. And let us help art enrich America -- so that America can enrich the world.

Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful evening.
God bless you, and God bless America.

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#522

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 9:00 P.M. EDT
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ANDREW MELLON DINNER

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, DC

April 27, 1989

We gather in America's cathedral of the arts. And we meet to salute an American art collector, philanthropist, financier, and public servant.

In that connection, I want to say a special thanks to Paul Mellon. His generosity has helped create this priceless Gallery. And he, as much as anyone, will recall how in his father's final year as Secretary of the Treasury, an apocryphal tale gained popular currency.

One day, the story went, Andrew Mellon was walking down the street with President Hoover. Suddenly, the President stopped. "Andy," he said, "I came out this morning without a cent in my pocket. Lend me a nickel, will you? I want to call up a friend." With that, Andrew Mellon paused and reached into his pocket. "Here's a dime," he said. "Call up both of them."

Andrew Mellon was a friend of art. And, today, he is making new friends for art across the United States of America. We see those friends within these halls. In the eyes of a little girl entranced by the magic of Degas' Four Dancers; or the smile of the elderly woman who finds solace in Cole's Voyage of Life; or the two art students who debate, not always quietly, Jackson Pollock's Lavender Mist. To them -- to us -- these works span the generations. For art is timeless; it enhances the gentler impulses of mankind.

- more -

In an abiding sense, Andrew Mellon embodied those impulses. Yes, he did well -- our second-longest-serving Secretary of the Treasury; a man of enormous wealth and power. But, more importantly, let us remember: He also did good. Yes, shy and soft-voiced, Andrew Mellon was modest, unassuming. But few men have contributed more to America's cultural quality of life.

To this captain of industry, philanthropy spoke of justice, involvement, and love of country. For he believed charity to be among the highest planes of patriotism. Above all, Andrew Mellon knew that we are a nation, and a family. And fifty-two years ago, he donated his collection, and built this building, for us, as members of that family.

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And, finally, let me recall how a kindergarten teacher once conducted a psychological test. How? By setting her students to work carving soap. "What are you working on?" she asked one student. "A panda," the child replied. A second girl responded, "Dog." Finally, the teacher came to a lad whose work defied description. "What's this?" she asked. "Soap flakes," said he.

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(Smith/Simon)
4/20/89; 6:30 pm
Draft Four
MEL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANDREW MELLON DINNER
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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989

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((In particular, let me say a word about this distinguished
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went to a come-as-you-are party in Kennebunkport.))

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And we meet to salute an American art collector, philanthropist,
financier, and public servant.

In that connection, I want to say a special thanks to Paul
Mellon. His generosity has helped create this priceless Gallery.
And as a longtime Washingtonian, he, as much as anyone, will
recall Harry Truman's famous quote: "If you want a friend in
Washington, get a dog."

Well, this Gallery already has a wonderful friend: the family of Paul and Andrew Mellon. And, today, that family is making new friends for art across the United States of America.

We see those friends within these halls. In the eyes of a little girl, entranced by the magic of Degas' [Day-GAHS] Four Dancers. Or the smile of the elderly woman who finds solace in Cole's Voyage of Life. Or the two art students who debate, not always quietly, Jackson Pollock's Lavender Mist. To them -- to us -- these works span the generations. For art is timeless; it enhances the gentler impulses of mankind.

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(Smith/Simon)
4/27/89; 6:30 pm
Draft Four
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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989

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"What are you working on?" she asked one student. "A panda," the child replied. A second girl responded, "Dog." Well, finally, the teacher came to a lad whose work defied description. "What's this?" she asked. "Soap flakes," said he.

See what I mean? When it comes to art, like politics, there's no mistaking our opinions. Well, when it comes to the Mellon Collection, there's no mistaking America's opinion.

Andrew Mellon never lived to see the dedication of this building. But his spirit lives today. It reaffirms America's decency and kindness. And it celebrates what Franklin Roosevelt, dedicating this gallery, termed "the relation between the whole people of this country, and the old inherited tradition of the arts."

My friends, to enhance our country and ennoble that tradition -- this is our continuing mission as Americans. So let us meet it, and thereby honor Andrew Mellon. And let us help art enrich America -- so that America can enrich the world.

Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful evening.
God bless you, and God bless America.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/19/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: COB 4/20/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MELLON DINNER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by close of business Thursday, April 20. Thank you.

no comments

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 20, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*
THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
SUBJECT: ANDREW MELLON DINNER REMARKS

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, April 27, you will address the fourth Andrew Mellon Dinner in the Rotunda of the National Gallery of Art, West Building. You will speak after dinner. The audience will consist mainly of several hundred past and prospective donors of art to the museum.

II. DISCUSSION

The text contains references, humorous and serious, to Andrew Mellon's career, with special emphasis on his philanthropy. It focuses on his life and legacy as a humanitarian, and his contributions to art.

(Smith/Simon)
4/20/89; 6:30 pm
Draft Four
MEL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANDREW MELLON DINNER
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989

Trustees of the National Gallery, Members of the Cabinet,
Members of the Congress, Distinguished Guests.

Thank you for that introduction, and for your generous
welcome. And I want to say what a privilege it is to join you
this evening.

((In particular, let me say a word about this distinguished
audience. I haven't seen so many people so well dressed since I
went to a come-as-you-are party in Kennebunkport.))

We gather, you and I, in America's cathedral of the arts.
And we meet to salute an American art collector, philanthropist,
financier, and public servant.

In that connection, I want to say a special thanks to Paul
Mellon. His generosity has helped create this priceless Gallery.
And he, as much as anyone, will recall how in his father's final
year as Secretary of the Treasury, an apocryphal tale gained
popular currency.

One day, the story went, Andrew Mellon was walking down the street with President Hoover. Suddenly, the President stopped. "Andy," he said, "I came out this morning without a cent in my pocket. Lend me a nickel, will you? I want to call up a friend."

With that, Andrew Mellon paused and reached into his pocket. "Here's a dime," he said. "Call up both of them."

Well, Andrew Mellon was a friend of art. And, today, he is making new friends for art across the United States of America.

We see those friends within these halls. In the eyes of a little girl, entranced by the magic of Degas' [Day-GAHS] Four Dancers. Or the smile of the elderly woman who finds solace in Cole's Voyage of Life. Or the two art students who debate, not always quietly, Jackson Pollock's Lavender Mist. To them -- to us -- these works span the generations. For art is timeless; it enhances the gentler impulses of mankind.

In an abiding sense, Andrew Mellon embodied those impulses. Yes, he did well -- our second-longest-serving Secretary of the Treasury; a man of enormous wealth and power. But, more importantly, let us remember: He also did good.

Yes, shy and soft-voiced, Andrew Mellon was modest, unassuming. But few men have contributed more to America's cultural quality of life.

To this captain of industry, philanthropy spoke of justice, involvement, and love of country. For he believed charity to be among the highest planes of patriotism. Above all, Andrew Mellon knew that we are a nation, and a family. And fifty-two years ago, he donated his collection, and built this building, for us, as members of that family.

Today, more than ever, this collection remains America's family heirloom. And it shows too that in judging art, believe me, everyone's an expert.

W.W. Woollcott rhymed, for instance: "In part I pull no highbrow stuff; I know what I like, and that's enough."

Less lyric, but more acerbic, was Mark Twain. One hundred and ten years ago, he observed, "If the old masters had labeled their fruit, one wouldn't be so likely to mistake pears for turnips."

And, finally, let me recall how a kindergarten teacher once conducted a psychological test. How? By setting her students to work carving soap.

"What are you working on?" she asked one student. "A panda," the child replied. A second girl responded, "Dog." Well, finally, the teacher came to a lad whose work defied description. "What's this?" she asked. "Soap flakes," said he.

See what I mean? When it comes to art, like politics, there's no mistaking our opinions. Well, when it comes to the Mellon Collection, there's no mistaking America's opinion.

Andrew Mellon never lived to see the dedication of this building. But his spirit lives today. It reaffirms America's decency and kindness. And it celebrates what Franklin Roosevelt, dedicating this gallery, termed "the relation between the whole people of this country, and the old inherited tradition of the arts."

My friends, to enhance our country and ennoble that tradition -- this is our continuing mission as Americans. So let us meet it, and thereby honor Andrew Mellon. And let us help art enrich America -- so that America can enrich the world.

Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful evening.
God bless you, and God bless America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/19/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: COB 4/20/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MELLON DINNER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by close of business Thursday, April 20. Thank you.

Good!
JA

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 APR 19 11:13:21

(Smith/Simon)
April 18, 1989
Draft Three
MEL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MELLON DINNER
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
APRIL 27, 1989

Trustees of the National Gallery, Members of the Cabinet,
Members of the Congress, Distinguished Guests.

Thank you for that introduction, and for your generous
welcome. And I want to say what a privilege it is to join you
for this occasion.

~~In particular, let me say a word about my traveling
companion . . . I refer, of course, to Barbara. I can testify
that the Silver Fox wouldn't have missed this evening for all the
paintings in the universe. After all, it was Andrew Mellon who
observed that "Gentlemen prefer bonds."~~

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In that connection, I want to say a special thanks to Paul
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And he, as much as anyone, will recall how in ~~Herbert Hoover's~~

(Handwritten signature)
Herbert Hoover
- some at

final year as President, a whimsical tale gained popular currency.

One day, the story went, Hoover was walking down the street with his Secretary of the Treasury. Suddenly, the President stopped. "Andy," he said, "I came out this morning without a cent in my pocket. Lend me a nickel, will you? I want to call up a friend."

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In an abiding sense, Andrew Mellon embodied those impulses. Yes, he did well -- ~~among our greatest Secretaries~~ ^{in detail} of the Treasury; a man of enormous wealth and power. But, more importantly, let us remember: He also did good.

Yes, shy and soft-voiced, Andrew Mellon was modest, unassuming. ~~But few men have done more to make America a better, more decent place.~~

↳ But he ~~was~~ ^{has} ~~been~~ ^{contributed} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~make~~ ^{to} ~~more~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~our~~ ^{to} ~~country's~~ ^{to} ~~artistic~~ ^{to} ~~quality~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{to} ~~life.~~ ^{to}

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God bless you, and God bless America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 19, 1989

Memorandum for Chriss Winston

From: Jim Pinkerton

Subject: Mellon Draft

=====
This draft is fine as long as it talks about Degas, Wolcott, and Twain.

However, it goes seriously awry when it ventures into Andrew Mellon's career at the Treasury. Let's recall that Mellon was the Treasury Secretary who presided over the Depression, which is not a laughing matter to most Americans.

I am fully aware of the revisionist argument that Mellon was a tax rate-cutting supply-sider whose policies fueled the boom of the 20's. However, whatever the exact causation, there is no denying the fact that the Crash and the Depression also occurred on Mellon's "watch." I am really afraid that someone who remembers the period, like Arthur Schlesinger Jr., will get wind of this speech, if it is given as is, and rip us for being ahistorical at best and insensitive at worst.

Therefore, the joke on page 2 about the nickels, while admittedly funny, is simply not appropriate. George Bush, a Republican president speaking at a white tie event, simply cannot speak next Thursday night about "a whimsical tale [that] gained popular currency" in the final year of the Hoover presidency. We're talking about 1932, when unemployment stood at 25%, when the Bonus Army was camped on the Mall, and when children were starving in the Dust Bowl.

Having said that, there's still no point in gratuitously dumping on former President Hoover. What did he do to become the butt of our jokes? Say nothing ill of the dead, especially GOP predecessors in the White House! Let's leave Hoover, the Depression, and Mellon's career at Treasury out of this. Let's focus on his life as a philanthropist, about which there is no argument.

(more)

2-2-2

Thus I would not therefore refer to him, as we do on the third-to-last line of page two, as "among our greatest Secretaries of the Treasury." Nor would I say, "few men have done more to make America a better, more decent place." I would focus on him as a person, his generosity, and his commitment to culture.

#

cc: Roger Porter/Brad Mitchell
Bill Roper
John Gardner

TIM

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/19/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: COB 4/20/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MELLON DINNER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by close of business Thursday, April 20. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*Chris -
just a couple
of comments.
Tim McR.*

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 APR 19 11:10:21

(Smith/Simon)
April 18, 1989
Draft Three
MEL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MELLON DINNER
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
APRIL 27, 1989

Trustees of the National Gallery, Members of the Cabinet,
Members of the Congress, Distinguished Guests.

Thank you for that introduction, and for your generous
welcome. And I want to say what a privilege it is to join you
for this occasion.

In particular, let me say a word about my traveling
companion . . . I refer, of course, to Barbara. I can testify
that the Silver Fox wouldn't have missed this evening for all the
paintings in the universe. After all, it was Andrew Mellon who
observed that "Gentlemen prefer bonds."

*Chris - The President has not been using
this very often. I would leave it out
of prepared remarks TM
not sure I'd use
"traveling
companion"
TM*

We gather tonight in America's cathedral of the arts. And
we meet to salute an American art collector, philanthropist,
financier, and public servant.

In that connection, I want to say a special thanks to Paul
Mellon. His generosity has helped create this priceless Gallery.
And he, as much as anyone, will recall how in Herbert Hoover's

final year as President, a whimsical tale gained popular currency.

One day, the story went, Hoover was walking down the street with his Secretary of the Treasury. Suddenly, the President stopped. "Andy," he said, "I came out this morning without a cent in my pocket. Lend me a nickel, will you? I want to call up a friend."

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In an abiding sense, Andrew Mellon embodied those impulses. Yes, he did well -- among our greatest Secretaries of the Treasury; a man of enormous wealth and power. But, more importantly, let us remember: He also did good.

Yes, shy and soft-voiced, Andrew Mellon was modest, unassuming. But few men have done more to make America a better, more decent place.

To this captain of industry, philanthropy spoke of justice, involvement, and love of country. For he believed charity to be among the highest planes of patriotism. Above all, Andrew Mellon knew that we are a nation, and a family. And fifty-two years ago, he donated his collection, and built this building, for us, as members of that family.

Today, more than ever, this collection remains America's family heirloom. And it shows too that in judging art, believe me, everyone's an expert.

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Less lyric, but more acerbic, was Mark Twain. ___ years ago, he observed, "If the old masters had labeled their fruit, one wouldn't be so likely to mistake pears for turnips."

And, finally, let me recall how a kindergarten teacher once conducted a psychological test. How? By setting her students to work carving soap.

"What are you working on?" she asked one student. "A panda," the child replied. A second girl responded, "Dog." Well, finally, the teacher came to a lad whose work defied description. "What's this?" she asked. "Soap flakes," said he.

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Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful evening.
God bless you, and God bless America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 20, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: PATRICIA MACK BRYAN *PMB*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks - Mellon Dinner

Pursuant to James W. Cicconi's staffing memorandum of April 19, 1989, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks. We have no legal objections to these remarks. We do note however, that in our view, the humor in paragraph 3 is difficult to comprehend; we of course ultimately defer to your judgment on that issue.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 4/19/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

COB 4/20/89SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MELLON DINNER

ACTION FYI

ACTION FYI

VICE PRESIDENT



MCCLURE

SUNUNU



NEWMAN

SCOWCROFT

PORTER



DARMAN

STUDDERT



BATES



UNTERMAYER

BREEDEN

WINSTON

CARD



ROGERS



CICCONI



PINKERTON



DEMAREST



FITZWATER



GRAY



HAGIN

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by close of business Thursday, April 20. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

1989 APR 19 AM 10:21

(Smith/Simon)
April 18, 1989
Draft Three
MELPRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MELLON DINNER
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
APRIL 27, 1989

Trustees of the National Gallery, Members of the Cabinet,
Members of the Congress, Distinguished Guests.

Thank you for that introduction, and for your generous
welcome. And I want to say what a privilege it is to join you
for this occasion.

In particular, let me say a word about my traveling
companion . . . I refer, of course, to Barbara. I can testify
that the Silver Fox wouldn't have missed this evening for all the
paintings in the universe. After all, it was Andrew Mellon who
observed that "Gentlemen prefer bonds."

We gather tonight in America's cathedral of the arts. And
we meet to salute an American art collector, philanthropist,
financier, and public servant.

In that connection, I want to say a special thanks to Paul
Mellon. His generosity has helped create this priceless Gallery.
And he, as much as anyone, will recall how in Herbert Hoover's

-2-

final year as President, a whimsical tale gained popular currency.

One day, the story went, Hoover was walking down the street with his Secretary of the Treasury. Suddenly, the President stopped. "Andy," he said, "I came out this morning without a cent in my pocket. Lend me a nickel, will you? I want to call up a friend."

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In an abiding sense, Andrew Mellon embodied those impulses. Yes, he did well -- among our greatest Secretaries of the Treasury; a man of enormous wealth and power. But, more importantly, let us remember: He also did good.

-3-

Yes, shy and soft-voiced, Andrew Mellon was modest, unassuming. But few men have done more to make America a better, more decent place.

To this captain of industry, philanthropy spoke of justice, involvement, and love of country. For he believed charity to be among the highest planes of patriotism. Above all, Andrew Mellon knew that we are a nation, and a family. And fifty-two years ago, he donated his collection, and built this building, for us, as members of that family.

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And, finally, let me recall how a kindergarten teacher once conducted a psychological test. How? By setting her students to work carving soap.

-4-

"What are you working on?" she asked one student. "A panda," the child replied. A second girl responded, "Dog." Well, finally, the teacher came to a lad whose work defied description. "What's this?" she asked. "Soap flakes," said he.

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God bless you, and God bless America.

#

1 (Smith/Simon)
April 12, 1989
Draft One
MEL

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APRIL 27, 1989

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Mellon. His generosity has helped create this priceless Gallery.
And he, as much as anyone, will recall how in Herbert Hoover's

final year as President, a whimsical tale gained popular currency.

One day, the story went, Hoover was walking down the street with his Secretary of the Treasury. Suddenly, the President stopped. "Andy," he said, "I came out this morning without a cent in my pocket. Lend me a nickel, will you? I want to call up a friend."

With that, Andrew Mellon paused and reached into his pocket. "Here's a dime," he said. "Call up both of them."

Well, Andrew Mellon had ~~more than~~ a friend. And he made friends -- ~~yes, is making them today --~~ for the world of art across the United States of America.

Just a hundred feet or so from here downstairs, you can read these words etched in marble: "He gave this building with his collection for the founding of the National Gallery of Art."

Here, Cezanne shines and Walter Hancock towers -- their works provide a lasting legacy. Yet here, too, this treasure speaks to future generations. For art is timeless; it spans the generations; it enhances the gentler impulses of mankind.

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In an abiding sense, Andrew Mellon embodied those impulses. Yes, he did well -- striving, dreaming. But ^{more importantly} let us remember: He also did good.

Yes, shy and soft-voiced, Andrew Mellon was modest, unassuming. But few men have done more to make America a better, more decent place. For he knew that we all inhabit a common earth. And our fate is not divisible.

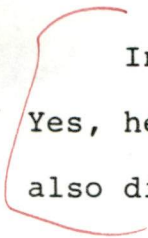
To this captain of industry, philanthropy spoke of justice, involvement, and love of country. For he believed charity to be among the highest planes of patriotism. Above all, Andrew Mellon knew that we are a nation, and a family. And fifty-two years ago, he donated his collection, and built this building, for us, as members of that family.

Today, more than ever, this collection remains America's heirloom of the heart. And it shows too that in judging art, believe me, everyone's an expert.

W.W. Woollcott rhymed, for instance: "In part I pull no highbrow stuff; I know what I like, and that's enough."

~~Then, there's Mark Twain.~~ ^{Then, there's Mark Twain.} years ago, he observed, "If the old masters had labeled their fruit, one wouldn't be so likely to mistake pears for turnips."

*Use a diary
to record the
history.
Remember that
even good men
are imperfect.*



And, finally, let me recall how a kindergarten teacher once conducted a psychological test. How? By setting her students to work carving soap.

"What are you working on?" she asked one student. "A panda," the child replied. A second girl responded, "Dog." ~~And the third-through-seventh said, "Man, table, tree, gun, car."~~ Well, finally, the teacher came to a lad whose work appeared to defy description. "What's this?" she asked. "Soap flakes," said he.

See what I mean? When it comes to art, like politics, there's no mistaking our opinions. Well, when it comes to the Mellon Collection, there's no mistaking America's opinion.

Andrew Mellon never lived to see the dedication of this building. But his spirit lives today. It ~~speaks to~~ ^{relates} America's decency and kindness. And it celebrates what Franklin Roosevelt, dedicating this gallery, termed "the relation between the whole people of this country, and the old inherited tradition of the arts."

My friends, to enhance our country and ennoble that tradition -- this is our continuing mission as Americans. So let us meet it, and thereby honor Andrew Mellon. And let us help arts enrich America -- so that America can enrich the world.

Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful evening.
God bless you, and God bless America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 9:00 P.M. EDT
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ANDREW MELLON DINNER

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, DC

April 27, 1989

We gather in America's cathedral of the arts. And we meet to salute an American art collector, philanthropist, financier, and public servant.

In that connection, I want to say a special thanks to Paul Mellon. His generosity has helped create this priceless Gallery. And he, as much as anyone, will recall how in his father's final year as Secretary of the Treasury, an apocryphal tale gained popular currency.

One day, the story went, Andrew Mellon was walking down the street with President Hoover. Suddenly, the President stopped. "Andy," he said, "I came out this morning without a cent in my pocket. Lend me a nickel, will you? I want to call up a friend." With that, Andrew Mellon paused and reached into his pocket. "Here's a dime," he said. "Call up both of them."

Andrew Mellon was a friend of art. And, today, he is making new friends for art across the United States of America. We see those friends within these halls. In the eyes of a little girl entranced by the magic of Degas' Four Dancers; or the smile of the elderly woman who finds solace in Cole's Voyage of Life; or the two art students who debate, not always quietly, Jackson Pollock's Lavender Mist. To them -- to us -- these works span the generations. For art is timeless; it enhances the gentler impulses of mankind.

In an abiding sense, Andrew Mellon embodied those impulses. Yes, he did well -- our second-longest-serving Secretary of the Treasury; a man of enormous wealth and power. But, more importantly, let us remember: He also did good. Yes, shy and soft-voiced, Andrew Mellon was modest, unassuming. But few men have contributed more to America's cultural quality of life.

To this captain of industry, philanthropy spoke of justice, involvement, and love of country. For he believed charity to be among the highest planes of patriotism. Above all, Andrew Mellon knew that we are a nation, and a family. And fifty-two years ago, he donated his collection, and built this building, for us, as members of that family.

Today, more than ever, this collection remains America's family heirloom. And it shows too that in judging art everyone's an expert. W.W. Woolcott rhymed, for instance: "In part I pull no highbrow stuff; I know what I like, and that's enough." Less lyric, but more acerbic, was Mark Twain. One hundred and ten years ago, he observed, "If the old masters had labeled their fruit, one wouldn't be so likely to mistake pears for turnips."

And, finally, let me recall how a kindergarten teacher once conducted a psychological test. How? By setting her students to work carving soap. "What are you working on?" she asked one student. "A panda," the child replied. A second girl responded, "Dog." Finally, the teacher came to a lad whose work defied description. "What's this?" she asked. "Soap flakes," said he.

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