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June 21/91

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TO: CHRISTINA MARTIN

BUSH GOES BUST (M.R. Grant)

I FIGURE SCULPTORS WHO DO WORKS LIKE THIS HAVE TO USE THEIR IMAGINATIONS TO
END UP WITH A BUST THAT DEPICTS A POLITICIAN WITH HIS MOUTH CLOSED.

I'M GLAD THE SCULPTOR DIDN'T BASE THIS ON THE "MEN OF THE YEAR" COVER ON
"TIME" MAGAZINE -- IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM (HER) TWICE AS LONG.

FRANKLY, WHEN I ENTERED POLITICS (#) YEARS AGO, I NEVER EXPECTED MY HEAD WOULD
WIND UP LIKE THIS. ON A PLATTER MAYBE, BUT NOT LIKE THIS.

THIS IS VERY IMPRESSIVE, BUT I GUESS THE NEXT ONE WILL HAVE TO BE A BIT BIGGER
TO FIT ON MT. RUSHMORE.

WHO SAID I'D NEVER GET AHEAD IN POLITICS.

(When I win the Pulitzer for humor writing for the above,
you're all invited to attend the ceremony.)

Grant
Draft one
A:Bust
June 24, 1991

**BRIEF REMARKS: UNVEILING OF THE OFFICIAL BUST OF THE PRESIDENT
U.S. CAPITOL
THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1991
2:30 P.M.**

Thank you all so much for joining us today. [On our way here ~~today~~, I was remembering when I entered politics nearly 25 years ago. I once said to Barbara that if I wasn't careful, the Democrats would have my head on a platter. /// [LOOK AT BUST]

She said no, George, I think someday you'll really get **ahead** in politics. /// Well, today I guess she's right.]

[When my schedule read that it was time to motorcade to the Capitol for this unveiling, I started to worry. I can just see the headlines in tomorrow's tabloids: "Bush Goes For Bust."
OR: "Bush Gets Busted."]

Surrounded by so many of my predecessors remembered in marble, I am reminded of the time someone asked George Washington why ~~[was it that]~~ in all the busts made of him, did he always have a curious smile on his face? He explained that ^{it all began when} the sculptor Joseph Wright was first doing a life mask of him, oiling his face and applying plaster. Just as the plaster was setting, Martha Washington walked into the room. Surprised to see the President this way, she let out a shriek. ^{The President smiled -- and} The rest is history ~~and~~ Washington was immortalized with ^{that way} a ~~crooked~~ smile ~~on his face~~.

This time, I was lucky -- Barbara and I both kept our composure while our good friend Walker Hancock did his work. And

I think that given his subject, Walker did a formidable job. The Bushes have been admirers of his masterpieces for decades -- I first met him as a friend of the family. Then, later, in 1989, it was my privilege to award him the National Medal of the Arts. *how?* He won that medal for his dedication to the enduring beauty of the classical tradition in sculpture ((and, of course, his eye for capturing politicians with their mouths closed.))

Walker, thank you for your hard work on this wonderful sculpture, and to all of you gathered here today, thank you for this historic moment. It was my distinct honor to have served as President of this esteemed body, the United States Senate. Once again, thank you. God bless the United States of America.

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Washington, DC 20515

**Vice Presidential Bust of George Bush
Senate Wing, United States Capitol**

The marble portrait bust of George Herbert Walker Bush by Walker Hancock will be formally unveiled on June 27, 1991. Pursuant to the Senate Resolution of May 14, 1886, as amended on January 6, 1898, and March 28, 1947, busts of those who have been Vice President of the United States are placed in the Capitol after approval by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. Busts of the earliest Vice Presidents are on display in the gallery of the Senate Chamber. The Bush bust will be located in the corridor south of the chamber near other recent additions to the collection.

George Herbert Walker Bush served as the nation's forty-third Vice President from January 20, 1981, to January 20, 1989, when he was sworn in as President. He is the first chief executive in office to attend the unveiling of his Vice Presidential bust. The busts of Calvin Coolidge and Harry Truman were placed without ceremony while they were in office; the bust of Lyndon Johnson was purchased in 1966 but not placed until 1979. The Bush bust is the forty-second to enter the collection.

Walker Hancock, of Gloucester, Massachusetts, is a renowned classical sculptor. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1901. He served as the head of the Department of Sculpture at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts from 1929 to 1968. Mr. Hancock has received numerous important awards and commissions for portraits and monuments during his long career. Among his many achievements are the Vice Presidential busts of Hubert Humphrey and Gerald Ford, the bust of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger, and the seated statue of James Madison in the Library of Congress.

Mr. Hancock, a long-standing friend of the Bush family, was recommended for the present commission by Architect of the Capitol George M. White. The President sat for the sculptor at the White House and at Camp David in 1989. After the plaster model received approval from the President and the Architect of the Capitol, the bust was carved in fine-grained white Carrara marble from Pietrasanta, Italy. The bust is life sized, and measures 24½ inches in height. It was completed in December 1990 at a cost of \$40,000. The pedestal is of Tennessee pink marble.

Office of the Curator, June 1991