

October 12, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEX BUTTERFIELD

Subject: Medal for Neil Armstrong -- White House
Ceremony

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As you'll note from the copy of my reply, attached, I was not encouraging about the likelihood of doing it here. But I'd appreciate it if you or someone else in a position to do so could give him a definitive answer. Many thanks.

Raymond K. Price, Jr.

10/12 RKP

Attachments - 2
Ltr (10/5) fm Alexander Cannon
and copy of tentative reply (10/12)

October 12, 1970

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Bests,

W. Price

Raymond K. Price, Jr.
Special Assistant to
The President

Mr. Alexander P. Cannon
Kane Lodge No. 454, F. & A.M.
Box 48 - Masonic Hall
71 West 23rd Street
New York, New York 10010

Note: Envelope addressed
to Mr. Cannon's HOME
ADDRESS: 300 East 74th Street
New York, NY

October 12, 1970

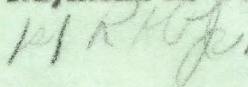
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Get with
John Dean
Bud Hughes
A Wang
APB
Bustan
Caulfield

① Sec

② GSA - King's - Trimmer (Molch)

October 12, 1970

TO: ALEX BUTTERFIELD
FROM: TRUDY BROWN

The following are some general comments regarding Chuck Stuart's letter of September 9, 1970 concerning Employment Security.

I - BACKGROUND

Chuck Stuart's facts are basically correct and perhaps all concerned should be educated to treat EOB and White House as one and the same with regard to security. However, there is one distinct difference between the two and that is the White House is the official residence of the First Family and the official seat of Government for the United States. For this reason anything happening in the White House would be given much more publicity than an incident taking place in the EOB.

II - PROPOSALS MADE BY MR. STUART

1 - This proposal would not mean much of a reduction in the work of the White House Security Office. The only major loss would be in Military Personnel -- these seldom are a problem as only the very top military people are usually selected for White House duty.

The serious thing this proposal would do is breakdown the hard and fast rule that we (the present Administration) must pass on everyone receiving a White House pass. I think we must remember that the people in Secret Service are definitely apolitical and while experts in their field of giving protection to the President, whomever he may be, their years of working for all the Administrations make their judgment a bit different from those of us who think in terms of just one President.

2 - I interpret this to mean that Chuck Stuart believes that the White House should handle the security checks on the staff members of CEA, OMB and OEP in addition to all the other staff members we presently handle. This would mean an addition of approximately 750 files to be handled. I do not believe the White House Security staff as now constituted - myself and one clerk-typist - could handle this responsibility.

It also means that some changes in present security requirements would have to be made. The Secret Service presently accepts, in accordance with Executive Order 10450, from CEA, OMB and OEP a full field investigation by CSC every five years before issuing a permanent EOB pass - the White House Security Office requires a satisfactory full field investigation by FBI every three years. If this is approved, can we expect OMB, CEA and OEP to stand the additional expense of having investigations every three years? Can we ask FBI to do them for them? OMB, CEA and OEP pay for their own investigations and that is why they use CSC -- it is cheaper.

3 - It is seldom that a full field investigation includes any information that would indicate political feelings of the individual. Mr. Stuart can be assured that when White House Security reads a file it is always read with the idea of finding anything that might indicate disloyalty to the President. Included in this is anything that would indicate a preference for another party.

Following a meeting with Mr. Stuart in April of 1970, I began to send to Mr. Flemming's office (Peter Millspaugh) information on new staff members for a political check. These checks seemed to be just a check on how a person was registered. Is this a complete political check?

It is true that Mr. Wong has an opportunity to review many of the backgrounds of pass holders but this is only after these persons have been approved by the White House Security Office for employment. Secret Service then becomes interested in the individual because of the access their pass gives them to the President.

4 - I am strongly opposed to this proposal for the simple fact that it would jeopardize the unbiased mind with which the security problems have been handled. This is true mainly in the case of Presidential Appointments, rather than Staff positions, where the political clearance section receives a great deal of pressure to approve somebody for a Presidential Appointment. As you well know, it has not been easy to convince that group that it would be harmful to the President to appoint a certain individual because of what his security report revealed. In my opinion, it would be disastrous to put the responsibility for both political and security clearances in the hands of one man -- no matter who he is.

5 - It is obvious from this proposal that Mr. Stuart is not completely aware of the magnitude of the listing shown as Tab D. The White House Security Office, as it is now constructed, could not examine and pass on all of the members and staff of key boards and commissions. As many of these commissions are classified as non-sensitive there is really no need to do so. We do a security check on anybody that the President appoints. This would include members to Councils and Commissions. The President does not appoint the staff members to these commissions. They are usually well-established civil servants. The housekeeping for most commissions and councils - administrative and security (when considered sensitive) is done by GSA. The number of staff members on Councils and Commissions number well over 1,000 people.

6 - My comments under No. 4 apply here. It is much more logical in my way of thinking to have White House Security work, as it is presently doing, in the same area of responsibility as the Staff Secretary who must be contacted before anyone can be put on the payroll. Further, because of your level of responsibility other staff members will accept your determination on the difficult cases. If the suggested change is made, I do not believe this would be the case.

III - PASS PROCEDURE

I agree with Mr. Stuart that it will be difficult to control the hiring practices of CEA, NSC, Vice President staff etc. However, I think that a letter as strong as he has worded the example might create quite a stir. A toned-down letter saying the same thing might be the solution. However, the CEA, NSC, etc. are not the only areas where we have problems. Many months ago, as far back as January 1970, I called to John Brown's attention the difficulty that was being encountered by bringing people on the staff with no prior security clearance. In April of this year Chuck Stuart was doing a survey of some type to improve the employment system and our problems were again discussed. Since that time no change has taken place. I was told that a Procedure Manual was being prepared and when this was released hopefully things would improve.

Briefly our problems are:

A - People are interviewed and accepted for positions before any security check is made. At the same time a person is being interviewed we should be doing at least a name check. The results of the name check should be considered along with the persons qualifications. When a person is told he is accepted, he should be given 86 forms to complete prior to coming to work.

B - The practice of putting people on access is over done. I believe this could be corrected by a letter from Mr. Haldeman restricting this practice without sufficient prior notice to permit a security check.

C - The turnover in personnel has been very heavy and will probably continue. This creates problems for both White House Security and Secret Service in the fact that we are very often not advised of terminations. Therefore somebody, who no longer has a need might still have a pass. Personnel should be requested to furnish a weekly list of additions, separations and transfers to a selected group of staff members.

D - As you know, many passes are given to people who are not housed in the complex. If my suggestion #C is carried out we should be able to keep track of the passes of staff members. It is not so easy with the persons outside the complex. I propose that anyone housed outside the complex, who has been approved for a pass, be given a pass with an expiration date on it - maybe one year or six months. At the expiration date, his need can be checked and it can be easily reissued if the need still exists.

SUMMARY -

I believe that the White House Security office has been operating efficiently but our system is not perfect. As stated, I do not think that many of Mr. Stuart's suggestions will improve the system, however, the fact that he wrote such a report might make people review the problems mentioned in A, B, C and D above and thus improve our security system.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 9, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR H. R. HALDEMAN

FROM C. E. STUART

RE Employment Security -- Executive
Offices of the Presidency

Following is a proposal for the institution of a political clearance process in the Executive Offices of the Presidency.

In order for a security office to gain control over incoming personnel in the Executive Offices of the Presidency, two criteria are elementary:

- 1 -- An ability to identify prospective employees
- 2 -- An ability to control either the hiring process and/or access to the White House complex.

The security clearance office can be programmed to provide both of these requirements.

I BACKGROUND

There are two offices which presently issue White House and E.O.B. passes; Gertrude Brown's (Security Clearance) and Alfred Wong's (Technical Security Division -- U.S.S.S.). Miss Brown's office issues White House passes to all groups including staff, military, maintenance, telephone, contractor labor, etc. with the exclusion of the Secret Service and White House police. She is also responsible for all E.O.B. passes except those issued to personnel of the; Bureau of the Budget, Council of Economic Advisors, Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, AT&T, GSA Maintenance and GSI Cafeteria. The historical reason for this disparity seems to be the Marvin Watson memorandum of November 28, 1966. (Tab A) This responsibility was pointed out to our Administration in Mr. Wong's memorandum dated March 19, 1969. (Tab B)

It is difficult to explain the seeming dual standard and overlapping jurisdiction. Apparently there has been some continuing belief that "security" is not as important in the Executive Office Building as in the White House. Nothing could be more erroneous.

The Executive Office Building and the White House, for practical purposes, are one and the same. There are more high level officials, more secret documents, and more top level Governmental activity in the E.O.B. than in the West Wing. Further, the President spends nearly as much time in his "working office" as he does in the Oval Room.

The only reason for a difference between a White House and E.O.B. pass should be to limit the number of people who could traipse around, tourist fashion, in the Residence. No other. The standards for admittance should be the same.

The acceptance of the above premise eliminates all but one distinction between a "Trudy Brown" clearance and an "Al Wong" clearance. Political.

It must be presumed that the Secret Service are as capable, if not more so, than our own clearance office in reviewing full field reports and isolating personnel who could cause potential embarrassment or are themselves a risk. It is their job. What they cannot do, and what we must do, is be alert to political nuances which might be inferred from a full field examination which is being read with political scrutiny.

I suggest that we must realign our emphasis in file reading in order that both we and the Secret Service can do what we, and they, do best.

II THE FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED:

1 -- That the Secret Service assume full responsibility for the issuance of White House/E.O.B. passes to all apolitical personnel. This catagory would include; military, telephone, maintainence, cafeteria, police, Secret Service, and similar purely technical offices. There is simply no reason for the White House staff security office to be involved with these files.

(Approve ____, Disapprove ____)

2 -- That the White House security office be responsible for the issuance of White House/E.O.B. passes to all employees,

task force members, consultants, etc. who work within the Executive Offices of the Presidency.

(Approve ____, Disapprove ____)

3 -- That the White House security office shift its file reading emphasis from standard security to political security. Because the Secret Service already reviews all background investigations with trained personnel it seems redundant for our less professional staff to undertake the same task.

(Approve ____, Disapprove ____)

4 -- That the White House security office, as a pass issuing and clearance initiating and terminating office, be attached to and become part of the political clearance section.

(Approve ____, Disapprove ____)

5 -- That the security - political clearance section examine and pass on all of the members and staff of key boards and commissions. (Tab D) This clearance will be imposed whether or not the organization is housed in the E.O.B.

(Approve ____, Disapprove ____)

6 -- That the responsibility for overall personnel security be vested in Mr. Harry Flemming. The technical security division of the Secret Service, pass operation only, should report to Mr. Flemming rather than Mr. Butterfield. This places the entire incoming personnel clearance, authorization and records function in one office. This is as it should be.

(Approve ____, Disapprove ____)

III PASS PROCEDURE

It is obviously more difficult to control the hiring practices of the orbit offices of the President than of the White House staff itself. Requiring approval from John Brown (memo 28 April) cannot be so easily imposed upon the CEA, etc. What can be done, and is recommended, is a candid statement that security procedures are being overhauled and that certain new regulations will be adopted.

H. R. Haldeman should direct the memorandum (Tab C) to the principal leaders of each of the organizations within the Executive Offices of the Presidency.

Attachments

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a final downward stroke.

A

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 23, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR
WALTER YOUNG:

It has come to my attention that I had authorized the Technical Security Division of the U. S. Secret Service to issue FOB passes and White House passes to certain groups.

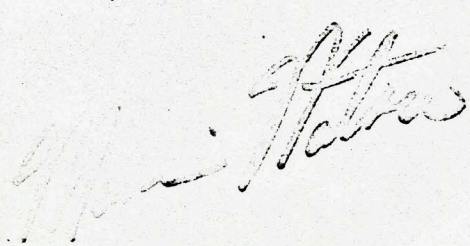
Effective as of this date, I would like to change this authorization to the following:

The Technical Security Division of the U. S. Secret Service is authorized to issue FOB passes upon request of the groups listed below.

Bureau of the Budget
Council of Economic Advisers
Office of Emergency Planning
GSA Office and Maintenance Staff
GSI Cafeteria Personnel
C. P. and H. T. (GSA personnel)

In addition your office was authorized to issue White House passes to U. S. Secret Service personnel upon request of the Chief and Special-Agent-in-Charge of the White House Detail.

All other requests for White House passes are to be channeled through this office.



W. MARVIN WATSON

B

March 19, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. KROGH

FROM: Alfred Wong
Special Agent in Charge
Technical Security Division

RE: Reissue of White House and Executive Office
Passes

Reference is made to our discussions re reissue of White House and Executive Office passes.

Questions which arise in connection with the reissue are cited below and I would be pleased to meet with you to resolve these matters if you so desire.

At the present time the Secret Service issues on its own authority, BOB passes to the following groups of employees:

RECEIVED
TECHNICAL SECURITY DIV
PASS SECTION
Bureau of the Budget
Council of Economic Advisers
C&P Telephone Company Employees
AT & T Employees
GSA Maintenance & Custodial Employees
& employees of Mr. Rotchford's office
GSI Cafeteria Employees

Any White House Passes required for these groups are requested through the White House Security Officer.

The Secret Service is also authorized to issue White House passes, on a need basis, to its own employees upon written authorization of the Director or Assistant Director (Protective Intelligence), or to other persons on authorization of the Director when he feels issuance of a pass is necessary to carry out Secret Service responsibilities. This represents a very small number of passes.

Completion of full field background is required before authorizing permanent EOB pass. Usually Bureau of the Budget and Council of Economic Advisers employees are investigated by Civil Service Commission; we require DISCO (Defense Industrial) clearance for C & P Telephone Company employees. The remainder of the above groups are background-investigated by the Secret Service.

The Bureau of the Budget responsibility was vested in this office because of the large number of employees and considerable turnover, which would have made it impractical to burden the White House staff with this responsibility. The Council of Economic Advisers was included in the Secret Service responsibility because its housekeeping is done by the Bureau of the Budget and requests for passes were made by the Bureau of the Budget security officer. It has since been determined that the Bureau of the Budget Security Officer does not maintain or evaluate security investigations of the Council employees, and because of the close and sensitive contact this group has with the White House, it is suggested that it be transferred to White House responsibility.

Probably our greatest problem is obtaining an authorized list for reissue. There is a tendency on the part of offices which have their Director or administrative office located in the EOB to request passes for all their employees, even though physically officed outside the White House-EOB perimeter (EOB 7, 1800 G, etc.). In the case of OEP and the Bureau of the Budget, they maintain libraries in the EOB, although the large majority of their employees are housed outside the EOB. In the past, efforts to reduce the numbers of EOB passes issued to these groups have been to no avail.

The White House Communications Agency maintains installations outside the Washington area. In the past every time there has been a reissue of passes there has been an effort made to issue passes only to those who actually reside and work in the Washington area at the White House and the Executive Office Building. However, soon the White House or EOB pass becomes an accepted medium for entry to these other installations so we issue to all, or practically all WHCA employees. This is a sizeable number with a large percentage of turnover.

Coding of passes creates a problem, particularly when it is not clear on the pass authorization just how the nominee fits into the picture. Codes in the past have been as follow: WHS (White House Staff); WHX (White House Support); OGA (Other Government Agency);

MAC (Maintenance and Custodial); MIL (Military); NGS (Non-Government Support). While it is not so intended, the various codes do create a sort of status system. This is one reason why we caution White House Police and other employees not to divulge the meaning of the codes to outsiders. If the codes are to be meaningful we would desire to have some guidance from your office as to proper code in questionable cases.

When the codes were first adopted instructions were given that all "Residence" employees who previously had White House passes should receive "WHS," while those who could be identified as GSA employees should be given "MAC." It is recommended that all maintenance and custodial employees, regardless of whether they are on White House or GSA payroll, be given "MAC." This would include maids, cooks, electricians, carpenters, painters, cleaners, gardeners, engineers, etc. If it were desired to give the personal domestic employees "WHS" we should be so advised.

We recommend the removal of "WHX" code, as it is somewhat difficult to administer. While it is the intention to give this code to consultants, heads of task forces, presidential commissions, etc., we do not usually receive this type of information on the pass authorization. In many instances this type of employee works so closely with the staff that it would probably be the wish of the staff that he have "WHS." Task forces and commissions are often housed for brief periods in the Executive Office Building. Usually the employees and staffs are given EOB passes upon authorization by the White House. In the "Employer" breakdown we consider them as White House Operating Personnel (WHOP), because their small numbers, and brief intervals of housing within the Complex do not warrant a separate breakdown.

The "OGA" code is given to anyone representing another government agency. You may wish to make some changes in the pattern for issue of "OGA." This is now used for such groups as: OEP, Secret Service, USIA, FBI, CIA, State Department, Treasury, etc. For example, the Director of USIA, Chief of Protocol, OEP Director have "OGA." This is a more or less arbitrary decision, and you may wish to refine this, or to indicate on future pass requests instances where you believe other government agency heads should have "WHS."

"NGS" is given to duly authorized passholders who are non-government employees--C&P Telephone Company; AT&T; Alderson (Press-Stenotypists Assoc.) reporters, etc. Because of the sensitivity of telephone lines the identity of C&P employees is further indicated by typing the name of the company under their names. This category seems to have worked out well, and if it has presented any problems they have not been brought to our attention. Telephone Company employees are limited to 30 holding White House Passes. The Company forwards completed Forms 86 to this office when a White House Pass is requested. If we are in agreement that the pass is needed, we forward the forms to you with request for FBI full field investigation; you notify us when the full field is satisfactorily completed, furnishing us a copy, and we proceed with the issue of the pass. AT&T requests are processed in the same way. They are limited to approximately half a dozen passes. For HOB passes for Telephone Company (authorized by this Service) we require certificate of DISCO clearance.

"MIL" is given to all personnel who are assigned to the White House and are in active military service. Exceptions are the Armed Forces Aide to the President and the President's Physician, to whom we have arbitrarily given "WHS."

Retrieval of passes of persons who leave is a continuing problem. Failure to return passes may be through oversight, through desire to keep them as souvenirs, or with intention to continue to use them for access to the Complex. For the best possible security we should be notified promptly when employees no longer have official need for a pass. This is especially true when an employee is separated because he does not meet the security standards for employment in the Complex.

Alfred Wong

cc: AD Kelley (PI)
DAD Taylor

c

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 9, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR (APPROPRIATE OFFICERS --
EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF THE PRESIDENT)
(TAB C)

FROM H. R. HALDEMAN

RE Security Clearance Procedures E. O. B.

This memorandum will set forth the new security clearance policy which will be applicable to all of the Executive Offices of the President.

Effective immediately, it will be necessary for all concerned organizations to obtain employment security clearance on new employees prior to the time they are actually entered on the rolls. We will no longer tolerate individuals working in the White House, E. O. B. offices on temporary passes while awaiting clearance. No temporary passes will be issued and no names will be added to access lists without the proper security clearance.

These requirements will impose some delays and hardships but they are necessary and must be accepted. In situations where it is imperative that an employee begin immediately, the administrative officer must apply to the clearance office, in writing, for a waiver.

Questions may be directed to Miss Gertrude Brown, Security Clearance Office, West Basement.

Thank you.

(Approve ____, Disapprove ____)

October 12, 1970

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per RKP

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 15, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. BUTTERFIELD

The President raised the point today of his getting too much material in not useable form for local events. An example he cited was the wad for the signing ceremony for S. 30 and the visit to the D.C. Police Station. The scenario had too much stuff in it - actually, these probably should have been handled as two separate visits so the thing wouldn't have been so overwhelming. Then the list of people invited to the ceremony was overwhelming, but I guess essential, since he does need to know who is going to be there.

His principal concern, however, was in the area of suggested remarks. For the bill signing, you had at Tab A seven pages of material. What he really needs is a much tighter background sheet that sets out the pertinent information he needs to know, in very concise, succinct form. Then he needs one to two pages of remarks that bring out just the highlights of what he needs to say. Then there could be one or two pages of additional suggested thoughts for him to work with as supplementary items in finalizing his remarks.

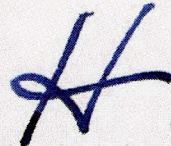
What he really wants though, is a boiled down thing that says here are the three points that you should get across in your presentation, rather than four or five pages of speeches and addenda. In the case of the visit to the D.C. Police Headquarters, there were again six pages of suggested remarks, with way too much background material on the first page. I think if the background material were done in more of an outline form, instead of narrative form, it might be easier for him to work with. As you know, the background left out the statistics on number of policemen killed, which the President has been wanting to use, and which I guess you got for him later. As it turns out, the killed in-duty statistics were buried on page 5 of the supplementary items, and he simply didn't see them. They should have been in the background, I guess.

Mr. Butterfield

- 2 -

October 15, 1970

In any event, there is a real need for getting this stuff boiled down more - both in the scenario material and the suggested remarks, and you should keep working in this direction.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a period.

H.R. HALDEMAN

cc: Mr. Keogh

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File

October 15, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR : MR. BUTTERFIELD

The latest word on wines is that for all occasions now we should use a German Moselle for the white wine, the good California red, and a French champagne. We're to do this on all functions from now on until further notice.

H.

H. R. HALDEMAN



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

Presidential Protective
Division

October 22, 1970

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Alexander P. Butterfield

I think this is probably just one of a huge number of people outside the Secret Service who are concerned.

How should we answer this?

Robert H. Taylor

Robert H. Taylor
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure



Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds

Reproduced at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

*Concern for
Mrs. safety*

WM. T. WOFFORD
ROBERT A. FELSMAN
JAMES C. FAILS

OFFICES OF
WOFFORD AND FELSMAN

PATENT ATTORNEYS
500 BAKER BUILDING
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

October 16, 1970

TELEPHONE
AREA CODE 817
332-6169

Mrs. Richard M. Nixon
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Nixon:

The purpose of this letter is to share a concern that I think you must inevitably have and possibly in some small way to help do something about it.

I consider myself to be a responsible patriotic citizen who is vitally interested and concerned with the effectiveness of government at all levels and with the general welfare of fellowmen. I feel a strong identity with President Nixon because it seems to me clearly that so many things that he says and does are so right. I have the distinct feeling that President Nixon has already in his administration wrought fundamental changes in this country that are very much for the good of our country and its people. At the same time, of course there is yet much to be accomplished and so there must be the pertinent years ahead granted in which to accomplish.

This brings me to the point of my concern. It is my strong feeling that President Nixon is a man for this time and that he is by no means expendable and is not replaceable.

I know that when a president finds himself in the presence of throngs of eager and friendly people it is a great temptation to have some degree of disregard for personal safety. Yet, I feel it is a higher duty for this president to refrain from any such temptation because he is not replaceable.

My thought is that perhaps if you could convey to the President the feeling of one conscientious and concerned citizen on this particular point, perhaps it may give him

Mrs. Richard M. Nixon

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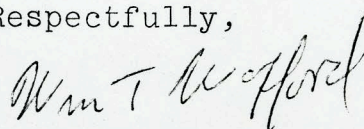
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pause and cause him to think of the higher duty at the appropriate times.

It is an unfortunate truth that there is always a possibility that some irresponsible person will be present any time the President is exposed. Such presence cannot be entirely prevented no matter what the precautions are. The only answer is to keep the exposure limited.

May God richly bless both of you and may you know that you have the deep appreciation of this citizen for the overwhelming burdens that must fall to those in your position.

Respectfully,



Wm. T. Wofford

WTW:ld

Eibar 2 (La Florida)
Madrid 23, Spain

28 October 1970

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

It was nice talking to you yesterday, and to learn that the President is fine. Considering all he is doing, the constant pressure, the incessant travel, etc., it is a miracle to me that he is not flat on his back! What an iron man!

I was not with the President when he was in the Navy, and did not meet him until just before he became a Senator, and therefore did not serve with him in the Navy. However, I do know a friend of his who, although he was with OSS (or something similar), did know him in the Pacific, and hopefully at Guadalcanal. His name is James Stewart, and he is head of Frank B. Hall & Co., Inc., major insurance brokers, at 67 Wall Street, New York, N.Y. 10005. Telephone is WHitehall 4-3300. He could probably give you some information.

Another source might be General Gerald Thomas, USMC (ret), who was General A.A. Vandegrift's Chief of Staff at Guadalcanal. I do not know his address other than the Army & Navy Club in Washington. He is there nearly every day, or they can reach him for you.

A third source is the current Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower & Naval Reserves), James D. Hittle. "Don" Hittle was a Brigadier General, USMC, and he, like General Thomas, should know something about MAG 25, and could find out for you, through the Naval Historian, at least, information about both the SCAT people and MAG 25 personnel on Guadalcanal. You probably know him, and if you do, you know that he is not only a very nice guy but extremely thorough and persistent in getting things done. He is a friend of mine, too, and if you should talk to either General Thomas or Don Hittle, please give them my very best wishes and my respects.

If any other source comes to mind, you will hear from me.

All good wishes to you, and to the President and Mrs. Nixon, my love and respect, as always.

Sincerely,

Alan Brown

Alan Brown

Pursuant to Mr. John D. Ehrlichman's memorandum of January 29, 1970, there follow the names of Smithsonian Institution staff responsible for drafting and approving this letter:

John Nicholas Brown, Regent
Smithsonian Institution
Chairman
National Armed Forces Museum
Advisory Board

John H. Magruder, III, Director
National Armed Forces Museum
Advisory Board
Smithsonian Institution

Charles Blitzer
Assistant Secretary (History and Art)
Smithsonian Institution

James Bradley
Under Secretary
Smithsonian Institution



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D. C. 20560
U.S.A.

October 29, 1970

Mr. Leonard Garment
Special Consultant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Garment:

I wish to thank you for your candid and constructive letter of October 22, 1970, concerning the Smithsonian Institution's current legislative proposal for Bicentennial Park. The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution are aware of the Administration's concern for establishing priorities in the many programs it must consider, and I can assure you that we do not wish to add unnecessarily to this burden.

At its meeting on October 28, 1970, the National Armed Forces Museum Advisory Board reviewed your letter. As you are aware, the Bicentennial Park proposal is the culmination of a prolonged study prompted by Public Law 87-186. Earlier tentative suggestions for the museum park have been revised considerably in recent months in an attempt to translate the broad objectives of the Act of August 30, 1961, into a meaningful proposal consistent with the role of the Smithsonian as the National Museum and, at the same time, realistically scaled to attainable proportions. Even the name was changed in keeping with a shift in emphasis. It was felt that perhaps the information available to you and to Director Shultz and Mr. Ehrlichman may not have reflected the most recent thinking of the Advisory Board and the Smithsonian Regents.

With this in mind, it might be useful to address the reservations expressed in the third paragraph of your letter of October 22. In the interest of convenience, our comments are enclosed separately for your consideration.

As a living outdoor museum, Bicentennial Park would bring to twentieth century Americans a keener understanding of the spirit, fortitude and intense humanity of their early forebears and would seek to demonstrate the historic commitment of the American people to the cause of freedom. It is planned as an integral and important part of the Smithsonian's Bicentennial program, offering a unique opportunity for public participation in the commemoration of this historic milestone in our nation's history.

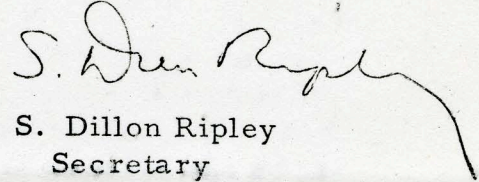
As indicated, our legislative proposal does not seek any appropriations at this time. In response to Section 3 of Public Law 87-186 (which directs the Regents of the Smithsonian to report to the Congress on a suitable site), the Bill would authorize the Smithsonian Institution to negotiate with the Secretary of the Interior for joint use of prime, federally-owned park land which he already has offered informally to the Smithsonian in writing. Otherwise, the legislation is limited to the essential minimum steps required to carry out the purposes of the Act of August 30, 1961.

In our view, Bicentennial Park is behind the National Air and Space Museum in priority. The latter already has been approved by the Congress and construction authorized with the proviso that appropriations not be requested until the military situation in Vietnam has been ameliorated. What construction Bicentennial Park will entail could be authorized in the future after additional planning, when further development is determined to be in the national interest.

At the present time we are preparing a brochure explaining Bicentennial Park in considerable detail as well as the concept behind the Dwight D. Eisenhower Institute for Historical Research. This should be ready for distribution before the end of the current

calendar year. In the meantime, I hope it will be possible to hold in abeyance a final decision on this matter. As soon as the brochure is available, I would welcome an opportunity to present the revised proposal in more detail to you and to Mr. Shultz.

Sincerely yours,


S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary

Enclosure

COMMENTS ON MR. LEONARD GARMENT'S LETTER
TO SECRETARY RIPLEY DATED OCTOBER 22, 1970

1. "Fort Foote is not an American Revolution fort..."

Comment:

The principal features of Bicentennial Park will be a Revolutionary encampment and an 18th century stockade fort. To recreate these effectively a natural setting is essential. Fort Foote Park, with its approximately 135 acres of wooded, varied and essentially unspoiled terrain constitutes about the last sizable federally-owned tract in the Washington metropolitan area that is suitable and available for this purpose. The presence of the Civil War earthworks constituting Fort Foote proper, occupying but two or three acres within the park, is incidental to the Smithsonian's purpose and there is no plan to incorporate these earthworks into the initial Bicentennial layout.

2. "The Bicentennial celebration aims to emphasize many other themes than war..."

Comment:

It is not intended that Bicentennial Park shall have as its theme war as such--either the particular war known as the War of the American Revolution or American wars as a whole. Rather, the theme will be the American people who, by dint of patient labor, sacrifice, courage, and self-reliance, succeeded in bringing forth the first modern republic and who have maintained and upheld it for two centuries since. The encampment and stockade fort are intended as settings in which to bring home with vivid realism to modern Americans the way of life, the motives, and background--ethnic, cultural, and religious--of their forebears, those who were in uniform and those who in divers other ways supported the struggle for independence.

3. "There is already the Eisenhower Center at Abilene..."

Comment:

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Institute for Historical Research is not designed as a competitor to the Eisenhower Center at Abilene. The latter will concentrate primarily on the Eisenhower papers and other memorabilia. The Institute is in response to the provisions made in Public Law 87-186 for "a study center for scholarly research into the meaning of war and its effect on civilization and the role of the armed forces." It bears the name Eisenhower, not to indicate a particular area

of specialization, but to recognize President Eisenhower's role in its conception and to honor a man who contributed so greatly to the shaping of a free world.

4. "Even though the present authorization may not affect the current budget, it is a commitment of perhaps \$20-40 millions in the immediately forthcoming budgets..."

Comment:

The Smithsonian's legislative proposal does not seek any appropriations at this time. It is designed to permit negotiations with the Secretary of the Interior in order to take advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to use lands now in the possession of the federal government for museum park purposes. The lands already have been offered to the Smithsonian for such use. Preliminary planning studies indicate that funds in the amount of \$2,500,000 would be required to implement the initial program for Bicentennial Park. There is no intention to request any large sums in immediately forthcoming budgets. The museum park can be developed over the years, piece by piece, as circumstances and future budgetary limitations warrant.

5. "There are already in existence other military museums for scholars and military historians."

Comment:

Bicentennial Park is not planned as a military museum, per se. The whole intent is to show that throughout our history as a nation the defense of freedom has put heavy demands upon the energies of all segments of society and that, whatever the volume of dissent (for that, of course, is nothing new) Americans always have succeeded in keeping alive the precious heritage of their Revolutionary ancestors. At the outset the intent is to recreate the spirit of the American people of the Revolutionary era itself. To accomplish this, static displays, such as typify conventional military museums, are not the answer. The museum park is intended as a dynamic educational venture inviting visitor participation to the fullest possible extent in which living exhibits will be developed hand in hand with an intellectual rationale.

A limited number of military museums are operated by the armed forces, but these, as a rule, are oriented primarily toward military personnel and are so isolated that their availability to the public at large is limited. Existing military museums by and large are sorely lacking in facilities to serve the serious scholar or student of military history.

The Eisenhower Institute is visualized as a much needed center offering a highly organized reference and bibliographical capability. The diversity of data and the variety of sources pertaining to U.S. military history have tended in the past to discourage attempts at establishing any sort of centralized retrieval system. With a minimum of initial outlay--it could operate within existing facilities to start--the Eisenhower Institute can make a unique contribution to the field of U.S. military history, commencing with the Revolutionary War.