

RICHARD NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
N-1/205	Memo	Bull to Butterfield re: Howell Conant Photographs Attachment: Letter, Conant to Bull, re: Last Sitting 10/18/1971 OPENED 01/2010	10/27/1971	C (Nixon)
N-2/206	Memo	Butterfield to Haldeman, re: Official Photography of the President (A Status Report) OPENED 01/2010	10/29/1971	C (Nixon)
N-3/207	Memo	Copy of N-1 & Attachment Reintegrated from Contested Files 07/10/2006	10/27/1971	C (Nixon)
N-4/208	Memo	Butterfield to Bull re: Photographs of the President [attached to cover memo, Bull to Atkins, 06/30/1971] Reintegrated from Contested Files 07/10/2006	06/30/1971	C (Nixon)
N-5/209	Letter	Conant to Bull re: Idea of Type of Photo of President & First Family Attachment: Letter, Conant to Bull re: Bull's Query of March 18th, 03/26/1971 Reintegrated from Contested Files 07/10/2006	04/02/1971	C (Nixon)
N-6/259	Memo	Haldeman to Butterfield re: Who's on Third? [attached to cover letter, Bull to Conant, 03/18/1971] Reintegrated from Contested Files 07/10/2006	03/16/1971	C (Nixon)

COLLECTION TITLE

WHSF: SMOF: Stephen B. Bull

BOX NUMBER

6

FOLDER TITLE

Portrait Sitzings [1 of 2]

PRMPA RESTRICTION CODES:

- A. Release would violate a Federal statute or Agency Policy.
- B. National security classified information.
- C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights. (CONTESTED MATERIALS)
- D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person.

- E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information.
- F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes.
- G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material.
- H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material.

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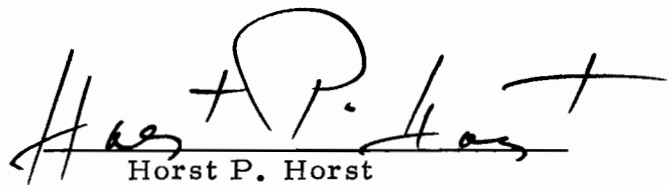
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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
RE
PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK OF FIRST FAMILY

1. All proprietary interests and rights in a photograph taken of the President and Mrs. Nixon will be vested in them. The original negative of the photograph shall be forwarded to the White House when work has been completed on it. Additionally, the President and Mrs. Nixon will have exclusive control of all other related negatives from the sitting.
2. There will be no copyright on any of the photographs.
3. There may be no commercial use made of any photograph you take in conjunction with the photographic work at the White House or with the First Family.
4. There will be no commercial exploitation of having been "the official Presidential photographer" without the express permission of the President and Mrs. Nixon.
5. Since the President and Mrs. Nixon will hold all rights to the negatives, no royalties or fees will be forthcoming to you.



Horst P. Horst

August 1, 1972

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Horst P. Horst

August 1, 1972

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 25, 1972

FOR: ALEXANDER BUTTERFIELD
FROM: STEPHEN BULL 
RE: Smiling Photograph of President

When Rose Woods and Ron Ziegler reviewed the most recent Howell Conant photographs, there was agreement that the one designated 438-4L would be an excellent photo for political purposes. I understand that the other smiling photo, 438-7L, which will be used for autographs, is being reproduced.

We have been reminded once again of the necessity for a good smiling photograph that could be used for campaign purposes, i.e., 438-4L, and it has been recommended that we get the Committee to pay for its reproduction on posters, etc.

Is this something which I should be talking to you about?
If not, how do I proceed?

cc: B. Kehrli
R. Woods

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. R. HALDEMAN

FROM: STEPHEN BULL 

RE: Smiling Photographs of the President

Enclosed are two smiling photographs of the President, in color and black and white, taken by Howell Conant. These photographs have been reviewed by the First Lady, Julie, Ron Ziegler and Rose Woods. The three women prefer the photograph designated #1 as the smiling photograph. Rose would like to use the picture for autographs and the like. The other photograph, #2, would be appropriate for political purposes and would lend itself well to blowups and campaign posters.

In view of the general agreement, we would like to proceed with the final touchup, which includes work on the collar of the shirt, and then production and distribution of these pictures immediately. Alex Butterfield concurs.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

cc: A. Butterfield
B. Kehrli

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Return to Steve Bull

~~*Alex Butterfield*~~

To Steve for file.

June 12, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. R. HALDEMAN

FROM: STEPHEN BULL *SB*

RE: Smiling Photographs of the President

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In view of the general agreement, we would like to proceed with the final touchup, which includes work on the collar of the shirt, and then production and distribution of these pictures immediately. Alex Butterfield concurs.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

ask the P. —

cc: A. Butterfield
B. Kehrli

*I have no view
cause I don't like either
of them — but will
leave it to the others*

H.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1972

TO: H. R. HALDEMAN
RONALD ZIEGLER
STEVE BULL
JERRY WARREN
CONNIE STUART
BRUCE KEHRLI
HERB KLEIN
DE VAN SHUMWAY
BILL PARISH
FRANK LEONARD
KEN CLAWSON
DICK MOORE

FROM: OLLIE ATKINS

RE: NEW OFFICIAL PICTURE

Please be advised that master negatives, both color and black and white, as well as controlled prints, have been distributed to the list of departments and agencies on the sheet attached to this letter.

The Lanman Lithograph Company of Alexandria, Virginia, is producing color lithographs of this new official picture which will be ready in less than three weeks and which will be available through GSA. I have withheld 1,000 copies of each of the sizes which will be available through my office for White House and staff requirements.

Best regards.

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1972

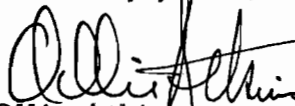
Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find the new official picture of President Nixon in various forms for your use in production quantities.

These are being sent to all agencies of the Government and it is suggested that the old photographs of the President be eliminated and this new one used.

In addition to this material, the General Services Administration will have shortly lithographs in two sizes which fit most standard government picture frames and which will be available from GSA.

Sincerely yours,



Ollie Atkins

Public Information Officer

Enclosures: 1-black and white 8x10 print
1-color 8x10 print
1-4x5 black and white copy negative
1-4x5 color transparency

Dev

May 22, 1972
1:45 p. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR: **ALEX BUTTERFIELD**
FROM: **STEPHEN BULL**
SUBJECT: **Official Photograph of the President**

This is to confirm our conversation this morning. I spoke with Howell Conant in New York and he advised me that a dye transfer is being prepared, should be completed by Wednesday, May 24, and will be sent to Ollie Atkins' office with receipt expected by Friday, May 26. Upon receipt of the dye transfer, it will be sent to the photo lab where magic and esoteric happenings occur and ultimately result in the reproduction in mass quantities of finished photographs.

I am unable to answer the question of when the photographs will be ready for distribution to federal buildings, post offices, etc., since Ollie is out of the country and I have not spoken to him on the telephone. However, I will do so and report to you in the next day or so on an anticipated date for completion of this project.

cc: Mr. Atkins
 Mr. Kehrli

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 1, 1972

FOR: ALEXANDER BUTTERFIELD
FROM: STEPHEN BULL *SB*
RE: Howell Conant Photographs

You now have the proofs of the photographs Howell Conant took in April, and they have been examined by Ron Ziegler and Rose Woods. Following are their selections:

Rose Woods

Serious Photo:

438-2H - this has a pleasant expression, although not smiling, and it would be good as the official photo to be hung in Federal buildings, Post Offices, etc.

Smiling Photo:

438-7L - the face appears lighter and thinner than the other retouched selections. The photo shows more of the neck and the eyes are good. Would be used for autographs.

438-4L - would be an excellent photo for political purposes. It would make very good blowup. The eyes are good and the face is merry.

Ron Ziegler

Serious Photo:

438-2H - recommends for official photograph.

Smiling Photo:

438-3L - good smiling picture. Ron suggested that this could be used as the autograph picture.

438-7L - (Ron's second choice for the smiling photo - also good for autographs or political use.)

I believe our next step is to run these proofs by members of the family and ultimately the President and get a final decision.

cc: B. Kehrli

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

^D
HIGH PRIORITY

April 11, 1972

2:32 p.m.

FOR: MR. H. R. HALDEMAN
FROM: STEPHEN BULL *VIA D.N.P. JB*
RE: Availability of Howell Conant

Howell Conant is in Palm Beach, Fla. today and is returning tonight to New York. He could easily stop off in Washington en route to New York in order to photograph the President tomorrow (Wednesday, April 12). He is also available Thursday or anytime next week.

Since the President has a tan, I think we should do the photograph as quickly as possible, i.e., before he leaves for Canada.

Conant says that he needs only 10 minutes with the President but, realistically, we should allocate 30 minutes.

We are not committed to Conant for any time this week, but I am able to reach him up to 7:00 p.m. this evening in Palm Beach should we want him for tomorrow.

Schedule Conant for:

Wednesday, April 12 ☒ Time 11:00 AM
~~3:00 PM~~

Thursday, April 13 ☐ Time

Other

cc: A. Butterfield
D. Chapin
D. Parker

April 11, 1972
2:32 p.m.

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Schedule Conant for:

Wednesday, April 12 _____ Time _____

Thursday, April 13 _____ Time _____

cc: A. Butterfield
D. Chapin
D. Parker

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Howell Conant - Mon - 10th
3 PM
212-532-7255

8 x 8 ^{medium} ~~dark~~ mahogany
background

2 flags

red chair

6" high platform

prepare for ^{any} lighting

- dark blue suit
regular shirt (long collar)
red-pattern tie

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 4, 1972

FOR: REX SCOUTEN
FROM: STEPHEN BULL 
RE: Sitting for Official Presidential Photograph

On Monday, April 10, at 3:00 p.m. in the Map Room, the President will sit for an official photograph to be taken by Howell Conant. You will recall that we had a similar sitting last Fall.

For the sitting this Monday, the photographer would like for us to construct an 8' x 8' mahogany background in the same manner as we did for last Fall's sitting. He specified that the color be "medium mahogany". Could you please make arrangements to have this constructed.

In addition to the construction of the background, we will require the 6 inch high platform which we have used previously, on which a chair will be placed. We will need the red upholstered chair that was used for a sitting in the Library. This is the chair that has the full sides rather than the single arm rest. We will also need the U.S. and Presidential Flags. It is requested that you collect all of these items and have them positioned in the Map Room.

I would also appreciate it if you would insure that the Map Room is reserved from 10:00 a.m. on so the setup may be done.

Although Howell Conant is bringing lights with him for the photographing, some additional lighting may be required and Ollie Atkins is requested to be prepared to provide whatever auxiliary lighting might be required.

Thank you.

cc: O. Atkins
A. Butterfield
D. Chapin
D. Parker
R. Woods
R. Ziegler

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

March 28, 1972

FOR: DAVID PARKER
FROM: STEPHEN BULL 
RE: Sitting for Official Photograph of the President

This afternoon I had the opportunity to discuss this subject with the President, and it was determined that the sitting will not be done until after the President returns from his next trip to Key Biscayne. The reasons are self-evident.

It should be noted that the President was very receptive to the scheduling of another sitting for a photograph, and it is requested that in your planning calendar you plug in a good 30 minutes for the photograph session which we will hold in the Map Room.

I would appreciate some indication at your earliest convenience of the day and time you are contemplating so that Howell Conant may be contacted and he can prepare his schedule accordingly.

cc: O. Atkins
A. Butterfield
D. Chapin
R. Woods
R. Ziegler

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

March 22, 1972

FOR: DAVID PARKER
FROM: STEPHEN BULL *AS*
RE: Sitting for Official Photograph of the President

Howell Conant, the photographer who will make an effort to obtain an official photograph of the President, was down to the White House today and was briefed by Miss Woods and Messrs. Butterfield and Ziegler. He now has an understanding of what is required in the official photograph and we would like to move off with dispatch to schedule a sitting so that an official photograph can be fully distributed and out in the country by the beginning of May.

If at all possible, we would like to do the sitting around noon next Wednesday, March 29. Wednesday is selected for two reasons:

1. Wednesday is a relatively free day and the President would be more relaxed.
2. He will have returned from Key Biscayne two days prior and should have a tan.

At your earliest convenience, we would like to confirm a date and time for the sitting. We should allow one-half hour, and the picture would probably be taken in the Map Room.

Thank you.

cc: O. Atkins
A. Butterfield
D. Chapin
R. Woods
R. Ziegler

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 21, 1972
12:15 p.m.

FOR: OLLIE ATKINS
ALEXANDER BUTTERFIELD
ROSE WOODS
RONALD ZIEGLER

FROM: STEPHEN BULL 

RE: Meeting with Howell Conant

Howell Conant will be arriving at the White House at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22. Initially he will meet privately with Ollie Atkins to discuss previous portrait sittings that both Ollie and Howell have conducted with the President.

At 11:30 (after the Press briefing) we would like to have Mr. Conant meet with Miss Woods and Messrs. Butterfield and Ziegler in Mr. Butterfield's office. Mr. Butterfield will have portraits taken by both Ollie and Howell on display for illustrative purposes, and it is the intent that the three participants in this session advise Mr. Conant of the desirable characteristics he should be attempting to capture when he photographs the President next week.

Based on information that you provided last week, your respective schedules will permit you to participate in the briefing of Howell Conant in the manner described above. Should there be any conflicts in your personal schedules, we would appreciate being advised at your earliest convenience so that necessary adjustments can be made.

Thank you.

cc: D. Chapin
D. Parker

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

March 15, 1972

FOR: ALEXANDER BUTTERFIELD
ROSE WOODS
RONALD ZIEGLER

FROM: STEPHEN BULL *SB*

SUBJECT: Meeting with Howell Conant

Because of certain schedule conflicts, Howell Conant will come down to Washington on Wednesday, March 22, rather than Monday, the 19th. The purpose of his presence will be for the addressees of this memo to brief Conant on exactly what we are looking for in an official photograph of the President.

As a result of the advice that you give him on Wednesday, he will make appropriate preparations and return the following week for a sitting with the President, the specific time and date to be determined.

Mr. Conant will be here at 11:00 a.m. and perhaps we can tentatively plan on meeting with him in Mr. Butterfield's office where the same photographs you viewed last week will be on display for illustrative purposes.

Thank you.

cc: D. Chapin
D. Parker

For : Mr. Steve Bull

March 10, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. H. R. HALDEMAN
FROM: ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD
SUBJECT: Official Photograph of the President

Rose Woods, Ron Ziegler and I met here in my office yesterday afternoon to critically review once again the several photographs which have been almost but not quite accepted as the new photo of the President. The result of our review and discussions was that it would be more wise to arrange for another sitting with Conant (or at least with someone who has taken the President's picture previously) than to rush headlong into a mass reproduction of one of the photos already on hand ... despite the rather severe time limitations which exist. It was agreed that the official photograph which eventually goes up on the walls of offices, embassies, etc. all over the world must be as close to flawless as possible. And we see some rather major flaws in both the Ollie and Conant efforts.

Step 1, therefore, is to break to the President the news that we do not feel any of the photographs produced thus far do him the justice they should -- and that we strongly recommend one more sitting. I think if he balks, we must persevere and possibly bring in the best of the pictures we have and show him why they are not quite good enough. Step 2 -- assuming we get by Step 1 unscathed -- is to get Conant down here to Washington, brief him thoroughly on what we see as the shortcomings of his last try and get him set up in the Map Room or the Theater for a good solid 20-25 minute session. It may be that the President will want to give Ollie another chance on that same day. Ron suggested our setting up Conant in one room and Ollie in another and gearing each of them to fire away with as many shutter clicks as he can get away with in whatever time is finally allotted. Finally, we get together with Mrs. Nixon and probably Julie, and select. Then we move out quickly to reproduce and hope that the distribution can be underway by May 1st.

The key to the success of this plan is selling the President on the idea. The longer we delay in approaching him (assuming he will eventually agree to the sitting), the later in the year our distribution will begin. I should think that May 15th would be the absolute deadline.

— Confidential —

11am, Mar 14

Steve. Bob accepted this plan, talked to the President this morning and just reported to me that the P (reluctantly, of course) agreed to the repeat sitting for Conant. We'll get together with Conant & point out all flaws, & triple brief him — then arrange the sitting w/i 2-3 days after the P's next return from K.B... i.e. on or about Mar 28th. Thanks for your help and advice.

-A

December 7, 1971

Dear Howell:

I am returning photograph "B" in accordance with my discussion with your secretary of today. Please note that, on both sides of the mouth, particularly on the left of the lips (as you look at the picture), there appears to be a tint of green. This is probably the result of some retouching, or perhaps in the production or something, none of which I am conversant with. Nevertheless, I assume that you would like to make the appropriate corrections on it before I submit it for final approval.

I will be here in the office should you wish to discuss any of this on the telephone.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Stephen Bull

**Mr. Howell Conant
Howell Conant, Inc.
248 E. 35th Street
New York, N. Y. 10016**

SB/bk

HOWELL CONANT, INC.

16 November 71

Mr. Stephen Bull
Staff Assistant
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Steve:

I am enclosing two sample photographs with brief explanations attached.

Without going into a long technical explanation - just take my word the President, as does everyone else in this universe, require retouching. There are a lot of reasons - for example: The Secretary of Defense, Mr. Laird, has no hair. Using the reportage (snapshot) technique to photograph him makes him look like a cue ball. Using a controlled technique his head is shaded making him look as he appears in person. With this controlled lighting other things happen which are simply corrected by retouching.

Contrary to opinion, I think the President is photogenic, using the proper method. And this requires retouching, and retouching to its fullest advantage can not be done using "The Machine". All of this Mr. Atkins is familiar with. On our first session with the President I used the Machine technique - it was not satisfactory. On the second, I advised Mr. Atkins I would use the "Dye Transfer" technique. I was surprised to see an attempt made to reproduce off of the uncorrected color proofs. They were clearly labeled on the back of each photograph.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 11, 1972

FOR: ~~REX SCOUTEN~~
FROM: ~~STEPHEN BULL~~
RE: Sitting for Official Presidential Photograph

On Monday, April 10, at 3:00 p.m. in the Map Room, the President will sit for an official photograph to be taken by Howell Conant. You will recall that we had a similar sitting last Fall.

For the sitting this Monday, the photographer would like for us to construct an 8' x 8' mahogany background in the same manner as we did for last Fall's sitting. He specified that the color be "medium mahogany". Could you please make arrangements to have this constructed.

In addition to the construction of the background, we will require the 6 inch high platform which we have used previously, on which a chair will be placed. We will need the red upholstered chair that was used for a sitting in the Library. This is the chair that has the full sides rather than the single arm rest. We will also need the U.S. and Presidential Flags. It is requested that you collect all of these items and have them positioned in the Map Room.

I would also appreciate it if you would insure that the Map Room is reserved from 10:00 a.m. on so the setup may be done.

Although Howell Conant is bringing lights with him for the photographing, some additional lighting may be required and Ollie Atkins is requested to be prepared to provide whatever auxiliary lighting might be required.

Thank you.

cc: O. Atkins
A. Butterfield
D. Chapin
D. Parker
R. Woods
R. Ziegler

> Steve: Good. Now
we must get Manolo to break
out the right shirt, tie &
suit. 1/

HOWELL CONANT, INC.

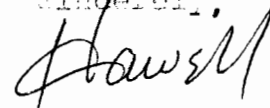
2.

It is disappointing after the President has given so much of his time to this project and I have gained so much experience on his photographability to have to be stymied by elementary technical problems.

I think this is a good, simple photograph of the President. I would still like to take my masterpiece, but it would probably be too involved for general usage; more for history.

I am at your service.

Sincerely,



Howell Conant

HC/wh

November 2, 1971

Dear Howell:

In this package is the original proof designated "RX-14" that you sent down last summer. Also enclosed are small black and white, and a color reproduction done by Ollie Atkins. The purpose of enclosing the reproductions is to show the cropping out of the hands that has been requested. Additionally, there is a bright spot on the upper left-hand side of the picture, eye level, that should be reduced or otherwise eliminated.

On the color photograph the observation was made that some retouching work is required on the lips. It appears as though there is a smear of red or something that causes a slight distortion, and I am sure that you can improve upon this.

I would appreciate it if you would make another print, cropping as in the reproductions, and retouching the lips and taking care of the bright spot in the background.

If there are any questions or problems on this, please telephone me.

Yours truly,

Stephen Bull

Mr. Howell Conant
Howell Conant, Inc.
248 E. 38th Street
New York, N. Y. 10016

SB/bk

bcc: A. Butterfield

November 2, 1971

Dear Howell:

In this package is the original proof designated "RX-14" that you sent down last summer. Also enclosed are small black and white, and a color reproduction done by Ollie Atkins. The purpose of enclosing the reproductions is to show the cropping out of the hands that has been requested. Additionally, there is a bright spot on the upper left-hand side of the picture, eye level, that should be reduced or otherwise eliminated.

On the color photograph the observation was made that some retouching work is required on the lips. It appears as though there is a smear of red or something that causes a slight distortion, and I am sure that you can improve upon this.

I would appreciate it if you would make another print, cropping as in the reproductions, and retouching the lips and taking care of the bright spot in the background.

If there are any questions or problems on this, please telephone me.

Yours truly,

Stephen Bull

Mr. Howell Conant
Howell Conant, Inc.
248 E. 35th Street
New York, N. Y. 10016

SB/bk

bcc: A. Butterfield

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1971

FOR: ~~ALEXANDER BUTTERFIELD~~
FROM: STEPHEN BULL
RE: Howell Conant Photographs

Howell Conant put a great deal of time and effort, and was extremely cooperative, in the work he did attempting to get a good photograph of the President. As you can see by the attached letter from Mr. Conant, we have not responded to him and indicated what we are doing with his photographs, or whether we are even pleased with them. I have to respond to his letter but, when I do, I should indicate whether he should be called back for another sitting, whether we are going to reproduce his photograph in any form, or whatever.

Could you please give me some guidance in handling this matter?

Thank you.

Oct 27
8pm

Steve - I'd be interested in seeing what Conant can do with a reproduction of one of the photos we like best. Ellie has reproduced one for us to show the resultant poor quality ... and that is the reason for our current state of limbo. Although Ellie swears he did his best to get a high quality product from the reproduction process, it just may be that Conant could do enough better to satisfy Mrs Nixon; or it may be that Conant is not in the mass reproduction business - & that Ellie is right. I talk to you about this.

HOWELL CONANT, INC.

18 October 71

Mr. Stephen Bull
Staff Assistant
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Steve -

Been waiting to hear if any of the last sitting
had been approved or more to be taken.

Guess I failed, so should I add up the expenses
and send you a bill now?

Warmest regards,

Howell

Howell Conant

1. negative retouching not done on 2nd batch
- allie didn't use negative -

RX - 14
cut hands & window
8X10

1. re-touched - type c negative - does not recommend

- 1300 2. Dye transfer - made from original transparency -
color print results - then:
a) photograph copy - then onto machine
b) lithography - \$2,000 starting fee

allie had reproduced off re-touched, non-color corrected type & proofs

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE WARNING

October 29, 1971

E.O. 12063, Section 6-102

BY maxwell MMS, Date 11/14/72

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. H. R. HALDEMAN

FROM: ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD

SUBJECT: Official Photograph of the President
(A Status Report)

The project is in the state of limbo and has been since the President and Mrs. Nixon rejected the two portrait photographers suggested by Ollie Atkins. As you may recall, the next alternative was another shot at the job by Mr. Atkins, himself. Evidently, neither the President nor Mrs. Nixon wants to go that route again ... so both have said, "Let's just let it go for awhile."

Knowing full well that it is not in our (the President's) best interests to delay, Steve and I are moving ahead with an idea involving Mr. Conant in New York. We are both interested in knowing if Conant's reproductions of his own photo of the President will be of as poor quality as the "reproduction" Ollie came up with and showed to Mrs. Nixon. We may be off on a tangent here, for there is a good probability that Conant is not in the mass production business; but I think it's worth another week's time to find out. If Conant can reproduce the photograph that was selected as the official Presidential photo so that the retouching is not obvious to the viewer -- and so that the blue suit does not appear to be purple -- we should strike out again in the same direction that we were going when Ollie interceded. If, on the other hand, Conant can do no better than Ollie (or if we learn that he does not have the facilities for mass reproduction), we will be forced to try again with another photographer. But that shouldn't be an insurmountable obstacle. Surely there are top-notch photographers who can be identified and called in. I think we should do this before we allow Ollie to set up his paraphernalia for a third time.

Of course, if we are still not satisfied after all of these attempts at success, I do think that then we should give Ollie the time he needs. He is at least here, and thoroughly familiar with the causes of our dissatisfactions in the past.

cc: ✓ Mr. Stephen B. Bull

CONFIDENTIAL

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER
R. G. BULL
1/14/80

October 27, 1971

FOR: ALEXANDER BUTTERFIELD
FROM: STEPHEN BULL
RE: Howell Conant Photographs

Howell Conant put a great deal of time and effort, and was extremely cooperative, in the work he did attempting to get a good photograph of the President. As you can see by the attached letter from Mr. Conant, we have not responded to him and indicated what we are doing with his photographs, or whether we are even pleased with them. I have to respond to his letter but, when I do, I should indicate whether he should be called back for another sitting, whether we are going to reproduce his photograph in any form, or whatever.

Could you please give me some guidance in handling this matter?

Thank you.

HOWELL CONANT, INC.

18 October 71

Mr. Stephen Bull
Staff Assistant
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Steve -

Been waiting to hear if any of the last sitting
had been approved or more to be taken.

Guess I failed, so should I add up the expenses
and send you a bill now?

Warmest regards,

Howell

Howell Conant

Conant file

HOWELL CONANT, INC.

5 August 71

Steve -

The proofs of the last sitting are being mailed today to Ollie Atkins.

Without going into a long dissertation, we are using techniques heretofore not used in the White House. With these photographs the subject can be made to look younger, older; more attractive, less attractive. Any background can be replaced, new added; the Flag waving, the White House, or whatever. I've gotten over being petrified and he relaxes more with me. What you have is my impression of what an official photograph should look like. However, it is only one man's opinion.

Before subjecting a busy man to any more photography, I believe an overall plan should be formulated. I don't fully understand what "official" encompasses. A photograph can be designed for any usage. Please note as simple a thing as the chairs used in the last sitting depict either a formal or slightly more relaxed attitude.

I feel very strongly that the subject, his family, the Cabinet, and all important members of the administration have not been but should be handled with a more prestigious, more dignified, and a more contemporary look. I briefly mentioned this during the last sitting.

I would like to meet with whomever has authority to formulate such an overall plan. If there is no authority I would be flattered to help prepare a plan and/or look. The taking of the photograph is now the easy part. The thinking out and planning of what type of photograph is to be taken should be more disciplined.

Sincerely,

Howell

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SITTING FOR OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH

Monday, July 26, 1971

3:00 P.M.

The Map Room

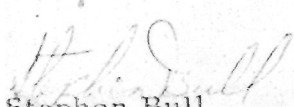
THE PRESIDENT:

BACKGROUND

In early June, Howell Conant photographed you in the downstairs library of the Residence. One of these photographs was selected by you to be used as a signature photograph. However, Mr. Conant is returning to take a more formal photograph of you which hopefully will qualify to be the official Presidential photograph. The photographer would like to photograph you with three separate backgrounds--an oak panel, and two separate shades of a blue backdrop. The photographs will be taken in the Map Room, and the total time for the sittings in front of each of the three backdrops will not exceed 30 minutes. Just prior to going over to the Map Room for the sittings, Milton Pitts will be standing by to brush out your hair.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 3:00 p.m. Milton Pitts will assist you in the Barber Shop in preparing you for the photograph session.
- 3:10 p.m. Proceed to Map Room where the photographer, Howell Conant, will be set up for the sittings. Ollie Atkins will be working with Mr. Conant.
- You sit for photographs to be taken in front of each of three backdrops. The backdrops will be on frames and, after one phase has been photographed, the backdrops will be changed. There will be no requirement for alteration of lighting.
- 3:40 p.m. Photograph session concludes.
You return to your office.


Stephen Bull

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 22, 1971

2:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. R. HALDEMAN

VIA: DWIGHT L. CHAPIN *C*

FROM: STEPHEN BULL *SB*

RE: Sitting for Official Presidential Photograph

On Monday, July 26, at 3:00 p.m., the President is scheduled to sit for an official photograph to be taken by Hal Conant. This photograph will utilize a more neutral backdrop than the one that was used the last time. There will be three individual sittings utilizing three separate backgrounds--an oak-panelled wall and two separate cloth panels. Each of the backgrounds will be fabricated by the White House carpenter and Hal Conant Monday morning.

With regard to timing, it is anticipated that only 10 minutes at the maximum will be required for each sitting which, incidentally, will be done in the Map Room.

~~Although only 30 minutes were programmed for this photograph session, it is recommended that we extend this to 45 so as to allow the President 15 minutes with the barber from 3:00 to 3:15, and then have a full half-hour in the Map Room. Presently there is nothing else scheduled until 4:30 p.m. (Sen. Tower).~~

Approve *HC* Disapprove _____

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 22, 1971

FOR: RECORDING SECTION

FROM: STEPHEN BULL *SB*

RE: Photograph Session

The President will sit for a formal photograph on Monday, July 26, at 3:00 p.m. in the Map Room. Originally, the photographer requested that we build three 8 x 8 ft. frames, two of which would be used to hold a section of cloth. We can eliminate the construction of one of these frames by hanging our standard blue backdrop on the poles and using that as one of the backgrounds.

The photographer, Mr. Howell Conant, will be here early Monday morning to construct the frames, set up the room and lights, etc. In conjunction with Ollie Atkins, would you please arrange to have a small blue backdrop erected in the Map Room around 10:00 a.m. Monday morning?

Thank you.

cc: O. Atkins
R. Scouten

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 22, 1971

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VIA: DWIGHT L. CHAPIN

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Approve _____ Disapprove _____

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 22, 1971

FOR: REX SCOUTEN
FROM: STEPHEN BULL *SB*
RE: Preparation for Photograph Sitting

On Monday, July 26, at 3:00 p.m., the President will pose for a formal photograph in the Map Room in the Residence. It is requested that the Map Room be reserved for preparations as well as the sitting the entire day. At approximately 8:00 a.m., Hal Conant and an assistant will be coming to the house to begin setting up for the photograph session.

In conjunction with the sitting, Hal Conant has requested that we make available to him the following items:

"Two pieces of 4 x 8 ft. plywood - dark oak, pre-finished, random panel". This plywood will be used as a background for one of the shots. In addition to the plywood, Mr. Conant needs sufficient 1 x 3 ft. wooden strips that would hold the two panels in place. The frame would be about 8 x 8 ft. in size according to my calculations.

For the other two sets, Mr. Conant would like sufficient 1 x 3 ft. wood stripping to build two 8 x 8 ft. panels that he will cover with cloth that he will provide. For all three panels, I calculate that we would need about 120 feet of stripping when you include the necessary wood for supports, etc.

In addition to the materials, Mr. Conant would like to have a couple of carpenters standing by to actually build the frames. Mr. Conant and Ollie Atkins will supervise the proceedings.

By copy of this memorandum, I am asking the White House Police to clear Mr. Conant at the Northwest Gate.

cc: O. Atkins
White House Police

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 7, 1971
4:56 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

STEVE BULL

FROM:

~~DAVID PARKER~~

SUBJECT:

Photographs of the President

I will tentatively block a time for Monday, July 26, at 3:00 p.m., for the Conant photos. Would you please prepare an appropriate schedule proposal for this time for that event.

Thank you.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 1, 1971

TO: STEPHEN BULL
FROM: OLLIE ATKINS
RE: HOWELL CONANT PORTRAITS

I am obtaining the original transparency from Mr. Conant and as soon as this is in hand I shall have our laboratory make internegatives and produce about 500 photographs in the appropriate size for the President's signature.

This picture will not do very well on a black and white transfer so I am going to produce everything in color.

Also, there will be no lithographs involved in this as this involves thousands of dollars and is a very costly procedure which we have to have to have done with an outside source.

As soon as we have the transparency in hand we will send you a sample of what our lab can produce from it coming off our automatic machines.

cc: R. Ziegler
D. Chapin
J. Huntsman
A. Butterfield
D. Parker



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIALJune 30, 1971
5:15 P.M.

FOR: COLLIE ATKINS

FROM: STEPHEN BULL *SB*RE: Howell Conant Portraits of the PresidentDETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
E.O. 12065, Section 6-102
By *Enclave* NAR, Date *2-1-80*

As you saw by Alex Butterfield's memorandum, the President has reviewed the photographs that were taken by Howell Conant earlier this month and has selected one that he would like to have used, along with some existing photographs, as a regular signing photo. This photograph, which I am attaching, should be reproduced in an appropriate manner to suit the purposes for which the President directed. I use the vague term "appropriate manner" since I am unfamiliar with lithography vs. whatever other processes might exist. The only guidance I have on reproduction is that 500 would be an appropriate number. Again, I will have to defer to you to determine appropriate size. Two different sized photographs that are distributed through Rose Woods' office are attached for your use.

This afternoon I spoke with Howell Conant and advised him that the President would like to use this photograph in question as a regular signing photo. I told him that you would be in contact with him to work out the details for transfer of the negative or whatever is entailed in this operation. In the meantime, I might suggest that the negative requires a bit of touch-up work, particularly on the upper lip. Whatever can be done to improve the photograph should be done.

As far as another sitting appointment is concerned, I have discussed this with Howell Conant and advised him that it will be some time before we can arrange this.

Thank you.

cc: PR, Ziegler - DD, Chapin - JJ, Huntsman - AA, Butterfield -
DD, Parker

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 30, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. STEPHEN B. BULL
FROM: ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD
SUBJECT: Photographs of the President

In coordination with Dwight Chapin and Dave Parker, please make arrangements for Howell Conant to come back down to Washington and again make a series of photographs of the President ... this time with a more simple background, and with a bit more emphasis on obtaining a really good picture of the President smiling. Some of those he did on the first occasion are very good, indeed, but there is reason to believe that with perseverance he (Conant) can do better.

Meanwhile, you should take steps to have the photograph from negative no. 416-X-1 (inter-negative) reproduced in an appropriate number for the President to use frequently as a regular "signing photo". The picture from that negative is on top of the bundle of photos I am returning to you along with this memorandum.

Thank you.

cc: Mr. Ronald L. Ziegler
Mr. Dwight L. Chapin
Mr. Jon M. Huntsman
Mr. Oliver F. Atkins
Mr. David N. Parker

June 30, 1971
5:15 P.M.

FOR: OLLIE ATKINS
FROM: STEPHEN BULL
RE: Howell Conant Portraits of the President

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Thank you.

cc: R. Ziegler - D. Chapin - J. Huntsman - A. Butterfield -
D. Parker

HOWELL CONANT, INC.

27 April 71

Mr. Stephen Bull
Staff Assistant
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Mr. Bull:

Enclosed please find the signed agreement as set forth in your letter of April 21st. I am delighted.

I would like to refer to my letter of April 2nd wherein I made certain recommendations. Prior to arranging sittings I again suggest a meeting with you, Mr. Atkins, and whomever is in charge of photographic releases so that I can look at available backgrounds, determine type and purpose of photographs and discuss technical matters.

I feel that preparation before photography is essential and will minimize the actual time required for a sitting.

Very Sincerely,

Howell Conant
Howell Conant

HC/nn

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 21, 1971

Dear Mr. Conant:

Thank you for your letter of April 2nd responding to my correspondence regarding photographs of the President and First Family. Since you have expressed an interest in this project, I believe that it would be helpful to all if we set forth the bases upon which any such work would be done.

As you probably know, any photograph which you take of the President or First Family might very well be selected for use as the official photograph. This determination, of course, would be dependent upon the final print, but because of the subject, there are certain stringent requirements to which you would have to agree. They are as follows:

1. If the photograph is selected to be the official Presidential photograph, all of the proprietary interest and rights in the photograph will be vested in the President. The original negative of the portrait would be forwarded to the White House when work has been completed on it. Additionally, the President would have exclusive control of all other related negatives from the sitting.
2. There will be no copyright on any of the photographs.
3. There may be no commercial use made of any photograph you take in conjunction with the photographic work at the White House or with the First Family.
4. There will be no commercial exploitation of having been "the official Presidential photographer" without the express permission of the President.
5. Since the President would hold all rights to the negatives, no royalties or fees would be forthcoming to you for what would probably be the many thousands of prints of the photograph.

I am sure you can appreciate and understand why these terms are necessary and I hope you will not interpret them as denying you, as a professional photographer, the credit which you are due. If you desire it, a credit line bearing your name would be authorized for this photograph, but the size and style would be subject to approval by the President.

If you agree to these conditions, we would very much like to proceed with our plans to arrange for sittings by the President and First Family. I have provided space at the bottom of this letter for you to indicate your agreement. If you have any questions, please let me know.

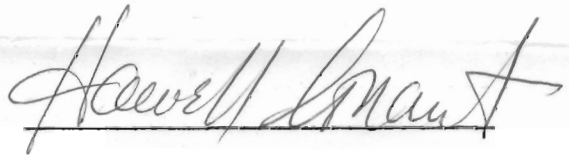
Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephen Bull". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bull".

Stephen Bull
Staff Assistant

Mr. Howell Conant
Howell Conant, Inc.
248 E. 35th Street
New York, N. Y. 10016

I agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this letter regarding the special photographic sitting of the President and First Family.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Howell Conant". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Howell" and last name "Conant" clearly legible. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

HOWELL CONANT, INC.

16 June 71

Dear Steve -

Am sending photographs to Ollie today. Hope the President likes these!

Now that I know his lighting and expressions, I'd like to do something different - close-up heads, full figure, change of background and something more symbolic. This one is fairly classic. It won't take as long next time.

Would also like to photograph Mrs. Nixon alone and with the President.

Love and Kisses,

Howell