

PPF 4250
MELLON, ANDREW W.

PPF 4250
MELLON, ANDREW W.

Atty - Genl. *WJ*

Report on Andy Mellon
by Dept of Justice. on
his 1930 income tax report.

Has been there since Nov.
Why not have Cummings
read it or make it
public.

PPF 4250

PPF
4250

December 26, 1936.

My dear Mr. Mellon:-

When my uncle handed me your letter of December twenty-second I was not only completely taken by surprise but was delighted by your very wonderful offer to the people of the United States.

This was especially so because for many years I have felt the need for a national gallery of art in the Capitol. Your proposed gift does more than furnish what you call a "nucleus" because I am confident that the collections you have been making are of the first importance and will place the nation well up in the first rank.

Furthermore, your offer of an adequate building and an endowment fund means permanence in this changing world.

Because the formal offer calls for specific statement of the terms and will have to be worked out before any request is made by me to the Congress for the necessary legislation, may I suggest that you, or whoever you may care to designate, should come to see me some afternoon this week?

Also, I think that we should discuss
the formal announcement and the terms of it.

With my renewed appreciation of your
letter, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable A. W. Mellon,
730 Fifteenth Street,
Washington, D. C.

A.W. MELLON
730 FIFTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 22, 1936.

My dear Mr. President:

Over a period of many years I have been acquiring important and rare paintings and sculpture with the idea that ultimately they would become the property of the people of the United States and be made available to them in a national art gallery to be maintained in the City of Washington for the purpose of encouraging and developing a study of the fine arts.

I have within the last few years transferred these paintings and sculpture to trustees with responsibility for carrying out this purpose and have given them full power and authority to deed these works of art to a national gallery if and when such an institution shall assume and be prepared to carry out the purposes intended. In addition, I have given to the trustees securities ample to erect a gallery building of sufficient size to house these works of art and to permit the indefinite growth of the collection under a conservative policy regulating acquisitions.

Such a gallery would be for the use and benefit of the general public; and it is my hope that it may attract gifts from other citizens who may in the future desire to contribute

NPX 91-21(7-5)

The President, The White House - 2.

works of art of the highest quality to form a great national collection. In connection, therefore, with the intended gift, I shall stipulate that the proposed building shall not bear my name, but shall be known as "The National Art Gallery" or by such other name as may appropriately identify it as a gallery of art of the National Government.

In order to carry out this purpose, and with the approval of the other trustees, I wish to propose a plan to give the art collection which I have brought together, to the Smithsonian Institution or to the United States Government for the benefit of the people of this country, and also to erect or cause to be erected on public land a suitable building for such a National Gallery of Art, the design and materials of which shall be subject to the approval of the Fine Arts Commission. Mr. John Russell Pope of New York has been employed as architect to study this project and will furnish designs for such a building.

The location of such a gallery is a matter that must be given most careful consideration. It should not only be readily accessible to those wishing to visit the gallery, but should also be located at a point with sufficient surrounding property under control of public authorities, to protect it from undesirable encroachments. In my own opinion and that

The President, The White House - 3.

of others who are familiar with the general plan of Washington, it would seem that a site on the Mall would most nearly meet these requirements; and the designation of a definite site, therefore, for the building on public land will be incorporated in the offer of the gift to the Government.

In addition to the gift of the art collection and a building in which it and similar collections may be housed and displayed, I plan also to establish an endowment fund for the proposed gallery, the income from which shall be used to pay the annual salaries of a director, assistant director, secretary, and curators of the gallery, and for possible future art acquisitions. The upkeep of the building and other administrative expenses and cost of operation would be provided in appropriations to be made by Congress, as for the other units of the Smithsonian Institution.

The orderly and efficient administration of the proposed gallery and its policy respecting acquisitions are both imperative considerations affecting the establishment of such a gallery. I would suggest that the affairs of the proposed gallery should be managed by a competent and separate Board of Trustees acting for it as a unit of the Smithsonian Institution and that they be empowered to make by-laws and regula-

The President, The White House - 4.

tions governing its operations.

It is of the greatest importance that future acquisitions of works of art, whether by gift or purchase, shall be limited to objects of the highest standard of quality, so that the collections to be housed in the proposed building shall not be marred by the introduction of art that is not the best of its type. I have tried to adhere to this standard in the collection which I have made. That collection is representative of most of the great masters of Western Europe and includes outstanding works of art which I acquired from the Hermitage Gallery in Russia. It also contains Renaissance sculptures including most of those formerly in the Dreyfuss Collection in Paris; and there is, in addition, a large assemblage of American portraits from the Clarke and other Collections, which would be suitable for a National Portrait Gallery.

By reason of the rarity and importance of these works of art, the general character of the collection is such that it will furnish the nucleus of a great National Collection and will give our country at once a National Gallery that will rank with the other great galleries of the world. In making the collection, I have placed emphasis on quality rather than quantity; and the terms under which the gift

The President, The White House - 5.

would be made are intended solely for the purpose of safeguarding the collection and insuring efficient management, so that the highest standard of quality will always be maintained in the art to be displayed in the gallery.

If this plan meets with your approval, I will submit a formal offer of gift stating specifically the terms thereof, and the erection of the building may proceed immediately upon the acceptance of such offer and the passage of necessary legislation by Congress. Appropriate instruments of conveyance and gift will then be executed.

Sincerely yours,

A. W. Mellon

The President,
The White House.

OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



PPF
4250

Jan 1/37

Dear Mr. President :-

attached is a
proposed letter from you
to Mr. Mellon. If you
send this to him today
you could, if you wish,
release all four (4) letters
for the morning papers.

Sincerely,

Tamm

Prep for sig
P

Jan 1, 1937

My dear Mr Mellon:

The outline of the terms and conditions under which the proposed "National Gallery of Art" is to be erected and maintained is admirably set forth in the letter you handed me at our conference yesterday.

In accordance with our understanding I am referring the correspondence to the Attorney General and the appropriate representatives of the Smithsonian Institution.

They will be able, I am sure, to work out in conference with you, the details of this fine project and prepare the necessary papers, including a draft of enabling legislation.

I shall be happy to submit the matter, with a favorable recommendation, to the Congress at the first opportunity.

Very sincerely yours,

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

FOR RELEASE IN MORNING PAPERS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1937.

CAUTION: Please safeguard against premature release.

The following exchange of letters is released subject to the above caution:

Letter of December 22, 1936.
Letter of December 26, 1936.
Letter of December 31, 1936.
Letter of January 1, 1937.

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the President

Hon. Andrew M. Mellon

"December 22, 1936

My dear Mr. President:

Over a period of many years I have been acquiring important and rare paintings and sculpture with the idea that ultimately they would become the property of the people of the United States and be made available to them in a national art gallery to be maintained in the City of Washington for the purpose of encouraging and developing a study of the fine arts.

I have within the last few years transferred these paintings and sculpture to trustees with responsibility for carrying out this purpose and have given them full power and authority to deed these works of art to a national gallery if and when such an institution shall assume and be prepared to carry out the purposes intended. In addition, I have given to the trustees securities ample to erect a gallery building of sufficient size to house these works of art and to permit the indefinite growth of the collection under a conservative policy regulating acquisitions.

Such a gallery would be for the use and benefit of the general public; and it is my hope that it may attract gifts from other citizens who may in the future desire to contribute works of art of the highest quality to form a great national collection. In connection, therefore, with the intended gift, I shall stipulate that the proposed building shall not bear my name, but shall be known as 'The National Art Gallery' or by such other name as may appropriately identify it as a gallery of art of the National Government.

SEE - 240 (for first copy & corresp.)

In order to carry out this purpose, and with the approval of the other trustees, I wish to propose a plan to give the art collection which I have brought together, to the Smithsonian Institution or to the United States Government for the benefit of the people of this country, and also to erect or cause to be erected on public land a suitable building for such a National Gallery of Art, the design and materials of which shall be subject to the approval of the Fine Arts Commission. Mr. John Russell Pope of New York has been employed as architect to study this project and will furnish designs for such a building.

The location of such a gallery is a matter that must be given most careful consideration. It should not only be readily accessible to those wishing to visit the gallery, but should also be located at a point with sufficient surrounding property under control of public authorities, to protect it from undesirable encroachments. In my own opinion and that of others who are familiar with the general plan of Washington, it would seem that a site on the Mall would most nearly meet these requirements; and the designation of a definite site, therefore, for the building on public land will be incorporated in the offer of the gift to the Government.

In addition to the gift of the art collection and a building in which it and similar collections may be housed and displayed, I plan also to establish an endowment fund for the proposed gallery, the income from which shall be used to pay the annual salaries of a director, assistant director, secretary, and curators of the gallery, and for possible future art acquisitions. The upkeep of the building and other administrative expenses and cost of operation would be provided in appropriations to be made by Congress, as for the other units of the Smithsonian Institution.

The orderly and efficient administration of the proposed gallery and its policy respecting acquisitions are both imperative considerations affecting the establishment of such a gallery. I would suggest that the affairs of the proposed gallery should be managed by a competent and separate Board of Trustees acting for it as a unit of the Smithsonian Institution and that they be empowered to make by-laws and regulations governing its operations.

It is of the greatest importance that future acquisitions of works of art, whether by gift or purchase, shall be limited to objects of the highest standard of quality, so that the collections to be housed in the proposed building shall not be marred by the introduction of art that is not the best of its type. I have tried to adhere to this standard in the collection which I have made. That collection is representative of most of the great masters of Western Europe and includes outstanding works of art which I acquired from the Hermitage Gallery in Russia. It also contains Renaissance sculptures including most of those formerly in the Dreyfuss Collection in Paris; and there is, in addition, a large assemblage of American portraits from the Clarke and other Collections, which would be suitable for a National Portrait Gallery.

By reason of the rarity and importance of these works of art, the general character of the collection is such that it will furnish the nucleus of a great National Collection and will give our country at once a National Gallery that will rank with the other great galleries of the world. In making the collection, I have placed emphasis on quality rather than quantity; and the terms under which the gift would be made are intended solely for the purpose of safeguarding the collection and insuring efficient management, so that the highest standard of quality will always be maintained in the art to be displayed in the gallery.

If this plan meets with your approval, I will submit a formal offer of gift stating specifically the terms thereof, and the erection of the building may proceed immediately upon the acceptance of such offer and the passage of necessary legislation by Congress. Appropriate instruments of conveyance and gift will then be executed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) A. W. Mellon

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C."

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

"December 26, 1936.

My dear Mr. Mellon:

When my uncle handed me your letter of December twenty-second I was not only completely taken by surprise but was delighted by your very wonderful offer to the people of the United States.

This was especially so because for many years I have felt the need for a national gallery of art in the Capitol. Your proposed gift does more than furnish what you call a 'nucleus' because I am confident that the collections you have been making are of the first importance and will place the nation well up in the first rank.

Furthermore, your offer of an adequate building and an endowment fund means permanence in this changing world.

Because the formal offer calls for specific statement of the terms and will have to be worked out before any request is made by me to the Congress for the necessary legislation, may I suggest that you, or whoever you may care to designate, should come to see me some afternoon this week?

Also, I think that we should discuss the formal announcement and the terms of it.

With my renewed appreciation of your letter, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

Honorable A. W. Mellon,
730 Fifteenth Street,
Washington, D. C."

"December 31, 1936.

My dear Mr. President:

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of December 26th and greatly appreciate the interest you have shown in my plan for the establishment of a national gallery of art at Washington.

For the purpose of carrying this plan into effect, I hereby offer to give the art collection, which I have brought together, to the Smithsonian Institution or to the United States Government for the benefit of the people of the United States and to construct a suitable building in which to exhibit this collection and other works of art of like quality which other citizens may in the future contribute to the National Collection.

In connection with the offer which I have made on behalf of myself and the other Trustees, who have the responsibility of carrying out this purpose, and in accordance with the suggestion in your letter, I set forth below an outline of the definite terms and conditions under which the gallery is to be erected and, together with the art collection, is to be given to the Smithsonian Institution or to the Government of the United States, all of which conditions are intended for the efficient management of the gallery and for safeguarding the high standard of quality which should be maintained in the art to be displayed therein.

First. The gallery shall not bear my name, but shall be known as the 'National Gallery of Art,' or by such other name as may appropriately identify it as a gallery of art of the National Government, to which the entire public shall forever have access, subject only to reasonable regulations to be from time to time established.

Second. The gallery to be erected will be of suitable design and ample capacity, the plans of which are being studied by Mr. John Russell Pope of New York who has been employed as architect, and will furnish designs for the building. Such designs and the materials of the building are to be subject to the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts. The scope and plan of the building as at present developed by Mr. Pope, will call for an estimated expenditure of eight to nine million dollars.

Third. The location of the building shall be on a site to be set aside by Congress, on the North side of the Mall (and in conformity with the plan thereof), between 4th and 7th Streets, Northwest, with frontage on Constitution Avenue, in the District of Columbia. In connection with the setting aside of the site for the building, it is to be provided that part of 6th Street shall be closed from Constitution Avenue to Independence Avenue, and that the Mall building space, on the North between 3rd and 4th Streets, Northwest, shall be reserved for future extensions of the National Gallery of Art. The plans for the rearrangement of the street are to be subject to the approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Fourth. The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution shall be authorized by Congress to erect, cause to be erected or grant permission for the erection of the gallery building on the site hereinbefore mentioned, and to accept on behalf of the Government and the people of the United States from the donor Trustees, under the terms and conditions herein provided, the gallery building as well as the art collection hereby offered to be given.

Fifth. The upkeep of the gallery building and other administrative expenses and costs of operation and functioning of the gallery for the public purpose for which it is designed shall be provided for annually in appropriations to be made by Congress, as for the other units of the Smithsonian Institution.

Sixth. It shall be provided that the gallery and its property shall be controlled and its affairs managed by a competent, self-perpetuating Board of nine Trustees, of whom five shall be named originally by the donor, with the approval of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, the remaining members of the Board to be ex-officio members and shall be the Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, or such other governmental officials as may be agreed upon. The Board shall act for the Smithsonian Institution as one of its units, but shall be empowered to make by-laws and regulations governing the organization and operation of the gallery. The by-laws and regulations to be adopted by the Board of Trustees shall have the approval of the donor, and among other things, shall provide for the employment of a director, an assistant director, a secretary and curators of the gallery, their qualifications and responsibilities. Such officers shall be appointed originally only upon the approval of the donor.

Seventh. The Board of Trustees shall be authorized and empowered to accept, receive, hold and administer gifts, devises or bequests of any real or personal property, except as Congress may hereafter specifically impose, either absolutely or in trust, for the benefit of or in connection with the gallery, its collections or its functions, and the Board shall have the power to prescribe by rules and regulations, or otherwise, the terms and conditions upon which such property may be acquired or received by the gallery.

Eighth. The Board of Trustees shall by regulation provide that no acquisitions shall be made in addition to the collection of paintings and sculptures hereby offered, whether by gift or purchase, except objects of a similar high standard of quality to those of the present collection, so that the collection to be housed in the gallery shall not be marred by the introduction of art that is not the best of its type, and further to this end they shall be empowered in the by-laws to impose reasonable conditions and rules governing the acceptance of objects of art.

Ninth. If this offer has your approval and that of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, it is stipulated that the erection of the building will proceed immediately upon the acceptance of the offer and the passage of the necessary legislation by Congress. Instruments of conveyance and gift will be executed upon these happenings. On completion of the building, it shall be turned over to the proper governmental authorities with the collection of paintings and sculptures hereby offered, to be administered by the above mentioned Board of Trustees.

- 5 -

In addition to the gift of the art collection and a building in which it and similar collections may be housed and displayed, I further propose to establish an endowment fund for the gallery, the income from which shall be used to pay the annual salaries of a director, assistant director, a secretary and a curator of the gallery, and for future art acquisitions, but not for the upkeep of the building and other administrative expenses and salaries, which I have hereinbefore stipulated shall be provided in appropriations to be made by Congress. The amount of such endowment fund and the terms and conditions governing its operation will be subject to further consideration and will be stated in the instrument creating the fund.

The exact form of these gifts, and the details for carrying them into execution, are questions that can be agreed upon by counsel representing the Smithsonian Institution or the Government and myself.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) A. W. MELLON

The President,
The "White House."

"January 1, 1937

My dear Mr. Mellon:

The outline of the terms and conditions under which the proposed 'National Gallery of Art' is to be erected and maintained is admirably set forth in the letter you handed to me at our conference yesterday.

In accordance with our understanding, I am referring the correspondence to the Attorney General and the appropriate representatives of the Smithsonian Institution.

They will be able, I am sure, to work out, in conference with you, the details of this fine project and prepare the necessary papers, including a draft of enabling legislation.

I shall be happy to submit the matter, with a favorable recommendation, to the Congress at the first opportunity.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Honorable A. W. Mellon,
730 Fifteenth Street,
Washington, D. C. "

PPF
4250

1785 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

THE WHITE HOUSE
JAN 7
1937

January 4, 1937.

My dear Mr. President:

I want to thank you for your kind letter of January 1st and all your courtesy in connection with the offer I have made for a National Gallery of Art. I particularly enjoyed my visit with you on Thursday afternoon and the opportunity of talking over the matter with you.

With renewed thanks, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A. W. Mellon

The President,
The White House.

P.P.F.

4250

MELLON, ANDREW W.

William Bullitt's memoranda to Roosevelt
concerning the Mellon-Berenger Agreement
of April 29, 1926 with regard to the
French debt, with attached copy of
A. W. Mellon's letter to R. Lacour-Gayet.

OF 203

9-8-33

9-14-33

7-14-26

P.P.F.

4250

MELLON, ANDREW

OF 10

Attorney General Cummings' note about the
Mellon case, enclosing a copy of a
newspaper clipping.

6-2-34
5-17-34

1/27/37

C O P Y

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Ned Bruce:

"In accordance with the President's suggestion, I have taken up with Mr. Mellon the idea as to whether or not he would like to have his pictures shown at the Worlds Fair. I think Mr. Robt. Cohen (who he understands is dining with the President tonight) would be exceedingly interested in seeing such plan arranged.

"I feel quite certain from what Mr. Finley tells me that Mr. Mellon would be very loath to have anybody see his pictures until the Museum is finished and he can have a "first-night" showing when he wants to surprise a waiting world.

"I think they are very anxious to proceed as promptly as they can -- perhaps too promptly because, from what I can gather, they are attaching too many strings to the gift so that we may find considerable difficulty in getting the donor's gift to be shown anywhere except where Mr. Mellon wishes them to be shown.

"This information comes as a result of spending most of the day with Mr. Finley and meeting Mr. Mellon."

(Mr. Bruce said, though he did not want it in his words, that "his family is worried about inheritance taxes on these pictures in the event Mr. Mellon, whose health has been none too good, passes on."

I asked him what inference could be had and he said "You can infer from that that if things are slowed up a bit, we can get good results" with respect to a Worlds Fair showing. "They are trying to put the whole thing through on Friday.")

K.

SEE 240-Mellon Art Collection - for first carbon

(Official File)

P. P. F.

425-0

MELLON, Hon. A.W.

Wash., D.C.

Jan. 1, 1937

The President wrote that the outline of the terms and conditions under which the proposed "National Gallery of Art" is to be erected and maintained is admirably set forth in Mr. Mellon's letter, handed to the President on Dec. 31, 1936 at their conference by Mr. Mellon. The President says in accordance with their understanding he is referring the correspondence to the Attorney General and the appropriate representatives of the Smithsonian Institution. Says he shall be happy to submit the matter, with favorable recommendation, to the Congress at the first opportunity. - On January 2, Mr. Early wrote Mr. Mellon stating for his information, the exchange of letters with the President is being released by the White House for publication in newspapers of Sunday morning, January 3, 1937. Says the Press has been asked to consider these letters confidential until published. - Mr. McIntyre sent a memo to the Attorney General on Jan. 5, 1937, enclosing some correspondence re this. - Also attached is a copy of the Press release, quoting Mr. Mellon's letters to the President.

STANDARD FORM NO. 14A

APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

MARCH 10, 1926

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

Telegraphic Memorandum for Mr McIntyre

Mac frankly I do not think the President will want to send a message or give out a statement on Mellon PERIOD If this is so I think it is one of those cases where we had best rest without either PERIOD I think you might say that the President learned of the death with regret et cetera and immediately made arrangements to send a floral tribute expressive of his sympathy and that of Mrs Roosevelt PERIOD However you might check with him PERIOD I may be wrong

FROM

The White House
Washington

August 27, 1937

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 131254

STEPHEN EARLY

PPF

4250

RWC
for
11/19/37

MELLON, Hon. A.W.

Wash., D.C.

Jan. 1, 1937

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August 27, 1937

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TELEGRAM

The White House

Washington

WX 8-27-37

Memo. for Mr. McIntyre,
PK

Mac Frankly I do not think the President will want to send a message or give out a statement on Mellon. If this is so I think it is one of those cases where we had best rest without either. I think you might say that the President learned of the death with regret, etc., and immediately made arrangements to send a floral tribute expressive of his sympathy and that of Mrs. Roosevelt. However, you might check with him. I may be wrong.

Stephen Early.

1250pm

P. P. F.

4250

1934

MELLON, Hon. A.W.

Wash., D.C.

Jan. 1, 1937

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Stephen Early.

1250pm

PPF 4250

MELLON, Hon. A.W.

Wash., D.C.

Jan. 1, 1937

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STANDARD FORM NO. 14A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 10, 1926

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

Telegraphic memo for McIntyre:

Please ask the President and Mrs Roosevelt if they wish flowers sent to the Mellon funeral with their cards STOP I think this should be done if only as an exofficial of the government STOP Will you advise Muir by wire Regards

STEVE

FROM

The White House
Washington

August 27, 1937.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1935

PPF
4250

MELLON, Hon. A.W.

Wash., D.C.

Jan. 1, 1937

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TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., August 27, 1937.

Memo for

Mr. Early.

OK send flowers.

M H. M.

1:15 p.m.

Notified the Usher 1:25 p.m.

File

MELLON, Hon. A.W.

Wash., D.C.

Jan. 1, 1937

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WX 8-27-37

Memo. for McIntyre,
PK

Please ask the President and Mrs. Roosevelt if they wish flowers sent to the Mellon funeral with their cards. I think this should be done if only as an exofficial of the government. Will you advise Muir by wire. Regards.

Steve.

1215pm

OK
Sent flowers.
m H m

PPF

4250

MELLON, Hon. A.W.

Wash., D.C.

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STANDARD FORM NO. 14A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 10, 1926

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

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STEVE

FROM

The White House
Washington

August 27, 1937.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1926

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The White House Washington

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., August 27, 1937.

Memo for

Mr. Early.

Do you think President should send message or statement on Mellon?

M. H.M.

11:17 a.m.

MELLON, Hon. A.W.

Wash., D.C.

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SEE - 240 (Official File)

P.P.F.

4250

BRUCE, Hon. Edward
Chief, Section of Painting and Sculpture
Treasury Department
January 6, 1937

Writes the President, suggesting that a portion of the art collection to be presented by Andrew Mellon be sent on an exhibition tour, and offering to take the matter up with Mr. Mellon. -- The President wrote Mr. Bruce on January 11, that he will be delighted to have him talk with Mr. Mellon in regard to the possibility of having more people see his wonderful collection, and he says that in view of fact that his new building will undoubtedly not be finished until late in 1939, a portion of Mr. Mellon's collection might well be shown at the World's Fair in New York during the summer of 1939. -- Mr. Bruce is apparently with the Procurement Division of the Treasury.

P. P. F.

4250

SEE - 240

C O P Y

January 23, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

This is interesting.

F. D. R.

Letter to "Missy", 1/19/37 from Hon. Harry L. Hopkins, WPA, with enclosed Confidential Memorandum to Mr. Hopkins from Holger Cahill, in re Mr. Mellen's bequest of work of art to the U. S. Govt. Suggestions re who isto be Director and the appt. of a national advisory committee. Believes that Mr. Philip Pearlman, 1023 Munsey Bldg., Baltimore, who worked on the plan for the Walter Gallery in Baltimore would be glad to give the Govt. the benefit of his experience.

SEE 240-for first carbon
(Official)

P. P. F.

425-0

ATTORNEY GENERAL, The
January 15, 1937

Writes the President submitting a draft of a proposed Joint Resolution embodying the conditions upon which the Mellon gift to the U.S., referred to in the recent correspondence between the President and Mr. Mellon, will be made. - Attached are drafts, and copies of the press releases quoting correspondence between the President and Andrew Mellon re the art collection he is donating to the U.S. - On Jan. 15, the Attorney General also wrote an informal letter to the President drawing attention to certain considerations in the Resolution. The Board controlling this gift will be known as "The Trustees of the National Gallery of Art," and will be composed of 9 members. - On Jan. 16, the President asked the Attorney General to draft a message for him to send to the Congress describing Mr. Mellon's offer and its general terms. - On Jan. 21, the Attorney General transmitted this draft. - On Jan. 23, the Attorney General, by memo, sent a memo of Jan. 22 sent him re the Mellon Gift, by N.A. Townsend, referring to the Attorney General's memo of Jan. 21, to which he attached a letter from Hon. Harry L. Hopkins, of Jan. 19, and a memo of Mr. Holger Cahill. Mentions the suggestion made by Dr. Abbott, of the Smithsonian Institution. Says he had a conference on the matter with Representative Kent E. Keller.

SEE - 240 (Official File)

P.P.F.

4250

KRESS, Samuel H.
New York, N.Y.,
July 1, 1939

VMB

Writes to the President, advising that he is arranging to give to the National Gallery of Art in Washington for its official opening, his collection of Italian paintings and sculpture, which conclusion he arrived at after various conversations with representatives of the Gallery for over a year. Embodies in his letter, a formal letter to the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art re this. -- On July 7, the President replied that his decision to present to the people of the U.S. his priceless art collection is in keeping with the broad spirit of the Congress in establishing the Nat. Gallery of Art primarily as the home of the Mellon Collection. Says he is most grateful for his letter setting forth the generous terms of his proposed gift. -- Attached is a statement re the collection, mentioning some of the artists, etc. -- On July 11, Paul B. Scarff, Mr. Kress' personal attorney, wrote to the President that his letter of July 7 arrived after Mr. Kress had sailed for Europe, but was being forwarded. Thanks him for his words of appreciation of Mr. Kress' gift. -- Attached in file are 22 large photographs of representative pictures in the Kress collection and a copy of a press release left with Mr. Hassett for the President by David E. Finley, Dir., Nat. Gallery of Art. Press release is dated July 13, for the Thursday morning papers. -- Miss Tully sent a memo to Mr. Early on July 12 re the publicity on this, and Mr. Early replied that it appeared in today's "Post" - July 13.

P. P. F.

SEE - P.P.F. 5694

4250