

**The original documents are located in Box 66, folder “White House - Curator Furnishings and China” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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W H Curator  
 [Handwritten signature]

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 26, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Clement E. Conger

FROM: William E. Casselman II [Handwritten initials]

SUBJECT: White House China - Reproduced by Castleton

In the October issue of Travel and Leisure Magazine, published by American Express Company (AMEXCO), there is a four page advertisement entitled, "A Series of Eight Authentic Designs of White House China Reproduced by Castleton in a Special Edition of True Translucent China." In your memorandum of November 4, 1974, you have advised me that this advertisement is neither authorized by the White House nor by the White House Historical Association. You have requested advice concerning what steps, if any, can be taken to rectify this situation.

We have concluded that the matter should be referred to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for consideration and appropriate action by them, as they are the agency of Government best situated to deal with a situation of this kind.

Neither the White House nor the White House Historical Association had any contract with AMEXCO or Castleton which would provide a basis for action by the White House or by the Association. Your memorandum suggests that the Association and AMEXCO were in the midst of negotiations when this advertisement first appeared, but that these negotiations had not yet ripened into a contract. Hence, there is no basis upon which to predicate a claim for breach of contract. Neither does the advertisement make use of the Presidential Seal, the Flag of the United States or violate any of the other statutes which prohibit advertising of this sort.

However, there appears to be two areas in which the advertisement may be misleading. The first is that the advertisement may suggest that it has been authorized by the White House. Secondly, Castleton is described



as the "official supplier of state china to the White House," and, of course, this is false. The concept of White House sponsorship is suggested only by inference and, after careful review, we have concluded that we do not have a very strong argument that the advertisement is misleading in this respect. On the other hand, the recitation that Castleton is the official supplier of state china appears plainly in the advertisement, and as noted above, this is demonstrably false. While the statement is false, the resulting injury is suffered by the public at large (not the White House) who presumably could be misled and as a result make a purchase [they might otherwise would not have made] Since we believe this to be the case, the matter should be referred to the FTC for whatever action they may think appropriate.

We do not believe it would be appropriate for the White House or for the Association to contact AMEXCO. Since the Association was deprived of royalty payments when the contemplated agreement with AMEXCO did not materialize, any effort to stop AMEXCO's current merchandising effort, initiated by the Association or by the White House, might be misinterpreted and regarded as a threat of governmental action unless the initial negotiations were revived which, of course, is not our purpose. However, if the public has been misled by the advertisement, then, as noted above the FTC should be advised of this fact so that it can take appropriate remedial action.

I would be pleased to discuss this matter further with you, at your convenience.

cc: Phil Buchen



Saturday 3/8/75

2:45      Concerning White House china, I had the attached  
in my files -- is this possibly what you had in mind?





WH Curator

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 26, 1974

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FROM: William E. Casselman II *WC*  
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I would be pleased to discuss this matter further with you, at your convenience.

cc: Phil Buchen



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1975

WH  
Curator

MEMORANDUM FOR: Clem Conger

FROM: Phil Buchen P.W.B.

After Bill Casselman and I reviewed your proposed letter to the Department of the Treasury (copy of which is attached), I suggest that the letter be sent only if the last paragraph is stricken and replaced by language as follows:

"This letter is being written merely to provide you with information similar to that which I have provided in cases of gifts of furniture or furnishings by others to the White House and the State Department. I have no objections to the public release of this letter."

If you have any questions, please call me.



3:35 p.m.

Thursday, May 29

Mr. Conger called about the draft letter he wrote about the gifts given by Mr. Tracy.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

5/27/75

Mr. Casselman's

office was  
checking to  
see if anything  
had gone out  
on this.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

5/26/75

Rod:

I'd like your  
views on this  
matter.

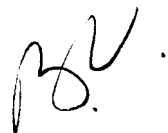
Okey, but why if the  
letter is made public!

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN  
FROM: BILL CASSELMAN



Per our telephone conversation today, attached is a proposed letter from Clem Conger to the Internal Revenue Service regarding the valuation of two gifts given by Mr. Berry B. Tracy to the White House in 1973. Mr. Tracy is the Assistant Curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and has been extremely generous in both selling and donating period furniture to the White House for inclusion in its permanent collection. However, Mr. Tracy is a man of limited means. Therefore, in an effort to avoid heavy capital gains tax on the increased value of the furniture which he has sold, he apparently decided to donate two valuable pieces to the White House to help offset his gains. IRS has questioned the valuation placed on these pieces by a professional appraiser, Mr. Harold Sack. Clem proposes to write IRS in support of Sack's appraisal.

When Clem called his proposed letter to my attention, I asked him if the situation had ever arisen before. He advised that on about 10 or 15 occasions he has written to IRS at the request of donors to support the valuations of gifts given to either the White House or State Department.

White House contact with IRS is always a sensitive matter. Section 11 of the guidelines to the Standards of Conduct for the White House Staff states that "As a general rule, no member of the staff should make an ex parte contact with a regulatory agency involving any matter pending before that agency, regardless of whether the proceedings are deemed to be rule-making or adjudicative, when such a contact may imply preferential treatment or the use of influence on the decision-making process." (We have generally treated IRS as a regulatory agency for purposes of these guidelines). However, the guidelines do recognize "exceptional occasions" when such contacts may be justified. In this case, Clem feels that the White House has a legitimate interest in the manner in which IRS values donations in kind to the White House and, based on his past practices, Clem very much desires to send his proposed letter to the IRS.

Enclosure





DRAFT

Department of the Treasury  
Office of Internal Revenue  
469 Broadway  
Newburgh, New York 12550

Attention: Mr. V. Iannuzzi, Conferee

Dear Mr. Iannuzzi:

I am writing in connection with the possible reassessment of the valuations of two gifts by Mr. Berry B. Tracy to the White House in 1973. They are two of the most important and beautiful pieces of period furniture recently acquired for the permanent collection of the White House.

One is an exceptionally beautiful pier table dating about 1815 by the well-known cabinetmaker, Charles Honore Lannuier. The other is a very handsome mahogany bedstead of about 1810 by the equally famous New York cabinetmaker, Duncan Phyfe. Both pieces are of the very highest quality.

The acquisition of this furniture was arranged by me as Curator of the White House. We would gladly have purchased them at what in my opinion was their appraised fair market values of \$16,000 and \$12,500 respectively had not Mr. Tracy so generously elected to give them to the White House for the permanent collection.

Frequently, when a private owner of an important object is given to the White House Collection, we have asked the firm of

Israel Sack, Inc., 15 East 57th Street, New York, New York,



to establish its market value for our protection and that of the donor. I can say that in my many years of acquaintanceship with Mr. Harold Sack of Israel Sack, Inc., that his integrity and knowledge of American furniture and the fair market value of great pieces is the best available in this country. I rely on Mr. Sack for values, quality and authenticity frequently.

In light of these facts, I wish you to take note of Mr. Sack's valuations and the reality of potential sale of Mr. Tracy's superb gifts to the Nation. I hope that you will consider this confidential information in your consideration of Mr. Tracy's case.

Very sincerely,

Clement E. Conger  
The Curator

cc: Mr. Berry B. Tracy  
P. O. Box 633  
Goshen, New York 10924

Mr. Harold Sack  
Israel Sack, Inc.  
15 East 57th Street  
New York, New York





ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH  
THROUGH: BILL CASSELMAN   
FROM: BARRY ROTH   
SUBJECT: Writing Table and Desk at San Clemente

The Act of September 22, 1961, 75 Stat. 586, provides:

"Articles of furniture, fixtures and decorative objects of the White House, when declared by the President to be of historic or artistic interest, together with such similar articles, fixtures, and objects as are acquired by the White House in the future when similarly so declared, shall thereafter be considered to be inalienable and the property of the White House. Any such article, fixture, or object when not in use or on display in the White House shall be transferred by direction of the President as a loan to the Smithsonian Institution for its care, study, and storage or exhibition, and such articles, fixtures, and objects shall be returned to the White House from the Smithsonian Institution on notice by the President."

In addition, 3 U.S.C. 109 requires an annual inventory each June of the plates, furniture and public property of the White House. This inventory is to be transmitted to the President for his approval and then maintained for reference in the office of the Director of the National Parks Service. The inventory is required to include when the item was purchased, its cost, condition and final disposition.

In view of these statutes, the following options are available with respect to the writing table and desk now at San Clemente (a detailed description of the items is attached):

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

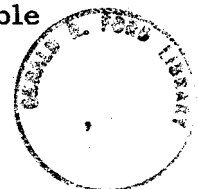


(1) Leave them there without additional action on our part. This option has several drawbacks. First, the items would be shown on the annual inventory as being located at San Clemente. Second, it is inconsistent with the intent of the above statutes which limit the use of White House furniture to the White House or to the Smithsonian Institution for storage or exhibit. A concern has also been expressed that they may be claimed as part of Nixon's estate at his death, and that the White House could permanently lose these items.

(2) Transfer the items to GSA. Although there is no record that the Presidential declaration required by the Act of September 22, 1961, has ever been made, Rex Scouten and his predecessors have interpreted this Act to generally apply to all White House furniture and property regardless, and Rex feels that a formal declaration is unnecessary. Rex also feels that were we to transfer the property to GSA, we would clearly be in violation of the Congressional intent that the property remain inalienable to the White House. On the other hand, an argument can be made that either an actual declaration by the President, or the delegation to another official who then makes that declaration, is necessary for these items to fall within the scope of this statute.

GSA clearly has the authority under the Former President's Act to furnish an office for the former President at San Clemente, and if transferred to GSA, the items would properly be at San Clemente on that basis. This authority lapses on Nixon's death and thus would insure that the property is reclaimed by the government at that time, when it could then be transferred back to the White House by GSA. This has the additional advantage that the inventory prepared this June would only show that the items had been transferred to GSA and would not show that they were at San Clemente. Rex is strongly opposed to this method to the extent it would be a precedent for future Presidents to permanently remove White House furniture, the very reason Congress enacted these laws in the first place. In response to that, I think this would not be the case as long as we now make the appropriate declarations so that such White House furnishings clearly fall within the terms of this Act. On their return, the declarations should also be made for these two items.

(3) Return the items to the White House. This is clearly consistent with the present law and would eliminate any possible future criticism of the President on this matter.



In view of the approaching June inventory, a decision is required now.

Decision

- Option 1. Take no further action now \_\_\_\_\_
- Option 2. Transfer to GSA \_\_\_\_\_
- Option 3. Return to White House \_\_\_\_\_
- Discuss further \_\_\_\_\_

cc: Phil Buchen ✓



THE WHITE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON

WHITE HOUSE ITEMS AT SAN CLEMENTE:

WRITING TABLE (902.408)

Mahogany writing table, rectangular, with two narrow drawers in front of table, each with brass mount handles. Between the drawers is a panel with a carved basket of flowers and drapery tassels on each side. The four legs are cabriole shaped with scroll bracket and shell carving at the knee. Dutch feet.

This table was purchased for the White House in the Theodore Roosevelt administration in 1902. A label on the table reads: "White House, Theodore Roosevelt President. Col. Theodore A. Bingham B. G."

DESK (952.3301)

Mahogany double pedestal desk with overhanging top and canted corners. Flat top has three sections of brown leather. At sides of corners near top are carved rosettes and acanthus leaf carving. Across the top are three narrow drawers and each pedestal contains three drawers graduated in size from top to bottom.

Table given to White House in 1952. Label on desk reads: Gift of John McShain.

Measurements: height-30", length-72", depth-36".



STEELCASE INC GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49501

*For file  
with Curator*

July 17, 1975

Mr. Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

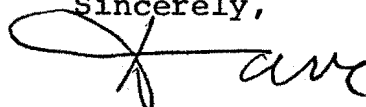
Dear Phil:

Thank you for the interest you have shown in our suggested project for the Bicentennial of re-producing the Treaty of Paris desk and chair.

We certainly would not wish to go ahead with any such program without the approval and cooperation of the various departments concerned. There are enough problems without adding one more and we will consider the matter closed.

Thank you again, and Mary joins with me in sending our very best wishes to you and "Bunny".

Sincerely,



David D. Hunting, Sr.

/jvl





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 7, 1975

*Miss  
Pitt  
B...  
L...  
(ARBA)*

Dear Dave:

When I last talked with you about your proposed project to reproduce the Treaty of Paris desk and chair, the originals of which are in the State Department, you indicated that you wanted to defer to the views of Clem Conger and the Fine Arts Committee of the State Department. Now I have been informed that Clem Conger did take up the matter with such Committee and has written you of the Committee's opinion that it should not authorize the project.

I regret that this was the outcome, but in view of your advice to me of your desire to defer to the judgment of this Committee, I will take no further steps unless you would like me to do so. However, please do not hesitate to propose that I ask the Committee to reconsider its action.

Warmest regards to you and Mary.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Mr. Dave Hunting  
Stow/Davis Furniture Company  
25 Summer Avenue, N. W.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504



STOW|DAVIS

April 18, 1975

Dear Phil:

Thank you for your thoughtful note.

When in Washington, I proposed our program to Mr. Conger. He suggested that I outline it in writing which I did as a Stow/Davis participation in the Bi-Centennial effort.

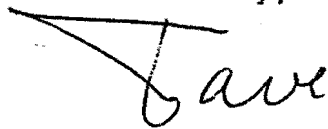
Thinking that a similar proposal by the Furniture Manufacturers Association to the Bi-Centennial Commission might be more acceptable than a program sponsored by an individual company, the Association wrote also.

We would not wish to proceed with either program without the approval of Mr. Conger. If we do not hear favorably, we have no intention of pressing the matter further, or asking Administration assistance.

Sorry not to have seen you the other night. This is a big year for the Hunting family, and I was very, very busy.

Will see you soon, I hope.

Sincerely,



maf

Mr. Philip W. Buchen  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.





AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION

736 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20276  
(202) 382-1776

June 24, 1975

Mr. Kenneth Bergsma  
President, Furniture Manufacturers  
Association of Grand Rapids  
220 Lyon Street, NW.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502

Dear Mr. Bergsma:

I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter to me of March 20, 1975, which I apparently misplaced.

I have discussed your proposal with our Program Staff and a representative of the State Department. It is the feeling of our ARBA Program Department that the program outlined in your letter would not meet the criteria for designation as a national Bicentennial program of the ARBA.

Consistent with policy guidelines adopted by the ARBA Board in carrying out the Congressional mandate contained in Public Law 93-179, it may be possible to accomplish the intent of your program through the ARBA symbol licensing program, which may or may not include limited reproductions of the "Treaty of Paris" desk and chair. Under our symbol licensing guidelines, it would be possible to designate as an officially recognized commemorative a collection of furniture reproductions, assuming all rights could be obtained. Such a collection could be purchased by companies for display and subsequent donation to local museums. Such a collection could also be offered for sale to the general public if that was your desire. Under the licensing program, the collection would be done under the auspices of the ARBA symbol licensing guidelines, and we are in no position to support the presentation of any item as a gift to President and Mrs. Ford. One of every item included under the symbol licensing program will be subsequently turned over to the Smithsonian Institution when the ARBA goes out of existence in July 1977.

Should this alternative proposal be of interest to you, I would be pleased to meet and discuss it with you in detail. My telephone number is (202) 634-1851.

Sincerely,

*Andy Wahlquist (CB)*

Andrew F. Wahlquist  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
for Symbol Licensing and  
Commemorative Sales



cc: Philip Buchen ✓  
The White House

Marjorie Lynch  
ARBA Deputy Administrator

Please note:

**NEW ADDRESS:  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL  
ADMINISTRATION  
2401 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20276**



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Bergsma,  
Ken*

April 9, 1975

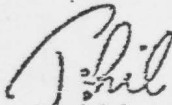
Dear Dave:

The President has referred to me the copy of the letter you sent to him which Ken Bergsma had sent to Andy Wahlquist.

I have checked with Mr. Wahlquist and he advises me that the matter is under consideration and that the Furniture Manufacturers Association will have a reply shortly. As I understand it, the Bicentennial Administration is only authorized to licensed use of the official Bicentennial insignia. Because use of the insignia on the proposed desk would not be fitting, it appears likely that the Administration can only offer encouragement for this project. However, I cannot anticipate exactly the nature of the forthcoming response.

It was good to see Dave, Jr., even briefly, at the reception in Grand Rapids; and I was only sorry not to see you but understood fully that you were engaged in preparing for Mary's birthday celebration.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Mr. David Hunting  
Stow/Davis Furniture Company  
25 Summer Avenue, N. W.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

cc: Dorothy Downton  
Jack Marsh



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: JACK MARSH

Recalling my earlier memo to you on the attached, do you have any further guidance?

It is my recollection from our meeting on this that you were going to take care of it.

Many thanks.



April 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: JACK MARSH

I would appreciate your guidance on the accompanying note from Dorothy Downton together with attachments involving a Grand Rapids' project.

Thanks.

JCM/dl





MAR 26 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 25, 1975

Mr. Marsh:

We received this letter from Mr. Dave Hunting who is a close friend of the President's in Grand Rapids. The President has read the letter from Mr. Bergsma to Mr. Wahlquist. He asked that I send it to you to be sure that these gentlemen receive a quick approval if one is necessary.

The President also thinks that Mr. Hunting should receive a letter from him indicating what we have done.

Thanks.

Dorothy Downton



From

STOW DAVIS

Steve Huntington



FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF GRAND RAPIDS

March 20, 1975

Mr. Andy Wahlquist  
ARBA 2401 "E" St., N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20276

Gentlemen:

The members of the Furniture Manufacturers Association of Grand Rapids are anxious to participate in the Bi-Centennial program. Our Association is composed of 36 companies manufacturing wood furniture.

Subject to your approval and authorization, we propose to manufacture a limited number of reproductions of the "Treaty of Paris" desk and chair now on display in the reception rooms of the State Department. These pieces would be arranged as a display with photographs, flags, replicas of treaties, etc.

This display would be offered to banks, insurance companies and other interested firms. It would serve as a focal point in their Bi-Centennial exhibits and programs.

We would probably restrict the release of this exhibit on the basis of one to each participant. It would be our endeavor to have the participant agree to donate the furniture to a local museum or art gallery at the end of the Bi-Centennial year. Our association would guarantee that the desk and chair would be of highest quality suitable for museum preservation.

The companies involved would send experienced designers to Washington to faithfully record the desk and chair, both in detail of design, construction, character of wood, etc.

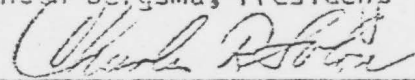
It is the intent of the Association to present one of these desks and chairs to President & Mrs. Ford as a gift from the Association.

Because it will require almost twelve months to manufacture the furniture, an early decision is imperative.

Are further steps necessary to secure your authorization?

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth Bergsma, President

  
Charles R. Solon, Managing Director



220 Lyon

103 25th STREET, N.W., GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49502 (616) 456-9697

May 21, 1975

Dear Mr. Hunting:

As I promised in my letter to you of March 4, 1974 your request for the Fine Arts Committee to grant permission to reproduce the Treaty of Paris desk as a Bicentennial project was put on the Agenda for the Spring Fine Arts Committee Meeting which was held on May 19, 1975.

We explained the proposal of Stow/Davis Furniture Company to reproduce the Treaty of Paris Desk in a limited number which would then be placed in banks, large firms, etc. I explained that this would be a patriotic rather than a commercial endeavor. The consensus of the Fine Arts Committee was that we should not allow the Treaty of Paris Desk to be copied even though they realized your project was a very worthwhile and patriotic endeavor.

We appreciate your interest in the Americana Project for furnishing the Diplomatic Reception Rooms.

Very sincerely,

Clement E. Conger  
Chairman  
Fine Arts Committee

Mr. David D. Hunting,  
Stow/Davis Furniture Company,  
25 Summer Avenue, N.W.,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504.



STOWIDAVIS

March 7, 1975

Mr. Clement E. Conger  
Chairman-Special Fine Arts Committee  
Department of State  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Conger:

I have your letter of March 4, and am disappointed that our suggested Bi-Centennial project does not look more favorable.

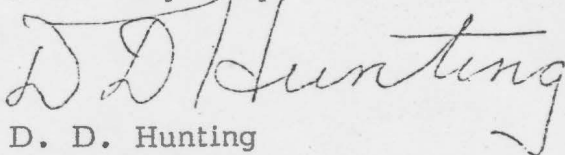
We are afraid that a delay of four months in obtaining approval from you or the Fine Arts Committee would not give us time to complete the manufacture and distribution of the desk. Is there any way in which we could start work at our risk, subject to approval at a later date.

I asked the Director of the Grand Rapids Museum to bring the project to the attention of the National Committee for the Bi-Centennial Era when he was in Washington a few days ago. He talked with Miss Marjorie Lynch about our desire to participate as indicated in our previous letter to you.

Incidentally, I have mentioned our program to a large national insurance company and to several banks. Their promises of cooperation were most encouraging.

If you could see any way to expedite the clearance of this program, I would be glad to come to Washington for further discussion.

Yours very truly,

  
D. D. Hunting

maf





2) Cont. Intg. File

March 4, 1975

Dear Mr. Hunting:

Thank you for your letter of February 21 regarding the possibility of our granting permission to reproduce the Treaty of Paris desk as a Bicentennial project. As I may have explained to you on the telephone before, we have turned down all previous requests to make reproductions of American furniture in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms. Granted your proposal has a somewhat different angle than the others, I would be glad to bring this subject to the attention of our Fine Arts Committee at its next meeting which will probably be in May.

Very sincerely,

Clement E. Conger  
Chairman  
Fine Arts Committee

Mr. David D. Hunting,  
Stow/Davis Furniture Company,  
25 Summer Avenue, N.W.,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 48504.



STOWIDAVIS

February 21, 1975

Mr. Clement E. Conger  
Chairman-Special Fine Arts Committee  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Conger:

When in Washington I spoke to you over the phone about the possibility of this Company having permission to reproduce the Treaty of Paris Desk as our Bi-centennial project.

Briefly and subject to your suggestions, we would propose to make a limited number of exact "museum" duplicates. These we would place with banks, insurance companies, or large firms as a focal point for their Centennial exhibits and programs. We would hope to make the display of this desk most attractive with proper flags, photographs, etc.

We would restrict the release of this desk on the basis of one to each participant. We will make every endeavor to have the participant agree to give the desk to a local museum or art gallery upon the termination of this exhibit or display.

We do not regard this as a commercial project, but rather as our contribution to the Bi-centennial program. The desk will not be advertised for sale. We expect to manufacture the desk of a quality suitable for museum preservation.

To do this, we would send an experienced designer to Washington to faithfully record the desk both in detail of design, construction, character of wood, etc.

Should you be inclined to favorably consider this request, we would like to present our program to and request the cooperation of:

The National Council for Historical Preservation  
The American Association for State and Local History  
The American Association for Museums  
The National Committee for the Bicentennial Era





February 21, 1975

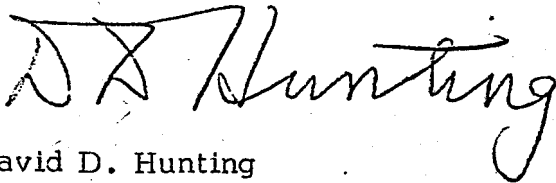
We would propose to present one desk to President Ford as a gift from the Furniture Manufacturers Association of Grand Rapids.

We have said nothing about this project to others. For information about our company and our responsibility, you could question Mrs. William Seidman, formerly President of the Grand Rapids Art Gallery, and now in Washington with her husband William Seidman of the White House staff.

I also had the good fortune to be escorted through the White House by Michael J. Farrell, who may remember our group.

Because it will require almost twelve months to manufacture these desks, we would appreciate your early consideration, and I will phone you in a few days to arrange a personal interview.

Yours very truly,



David D. Hunting

maf



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



Mr. Conger  
is not in  
the WH yet —  
but I've left  
word for  
him to call me.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Evans:

Please tell  
Clem Conger I  
must talk to him  
before Monday.  
Ask where I might  
reach him on Saturday  
in case I can't  
call before then.

P.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 25, 1975

Mr. Buchen,

*Attached is a copy of the memorandum  
to Clem Conger that Mrs. Ford discussed  
with you this afternoon.*

*Nancy*  
Nancy Chirton

September 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO CLEM CONGER, CURATOR'S OFFICE

FROM: Mrs. Ford

After careful consideration, I have come to the following conclusions regarding the items which have been placed for my approval both in the East Sitting Hall and the Queen's Bedroom:

East Sitting Hall

The oriental rug that was selected does not appeal to me, and I feel that it is unsuitable. In view of the fact that we often use this area for entertaining, I would much prefer either something more cheerful and warmer or the return of the original carpet. I also want to confirm that the new drapes will be an exact duplication of those which we now have.

Queen's Bedroom

At this time, I must reiterate my strong feelings that the bed is such an historic piece of furniture and, therefore, request that it not be removed from this room. I am sure there will be no problem in having someone come into the room to drape it. I also must express my great disappointment at the selection of the sofa by Samuel McIntire. I have found that it is most uncomfortable -- your feet do not even touch the floor while sitting in it. Although I have agreed that the mantle should be replaced, at this time I wish to confirm that this does not include the above mirror.

After again reviewing the Queen's Bedroom and reflecting your suggested changes, I must admit that I am particularly partial to the effectiveness of the present fabric. Therefore, I feel I must be absolutely positive that all the changes create an equally attractive atmosphere. I believe this will require more of my personal attention.

Thank you.



Monday 10/27/75

1:20 Mr. Hills:

The grandfather clocks are taken care of by the  
W.H. Curator's office.

2550

There is apparently no one in the office today; we will  
try again tomorrow.



2550

Thursday 11/20/75

6:15 Clem Conger left these materials for you.

He must talk with you before you take the materials to Mrs. Ford -- he has things to tell you which he did not include in the material.



November 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

SUBJ: "Materials for the Queens' Bedroom"

The original discussions with Mrs. Nixon on refurbishing the Queens' Bedroom began back in the Spring of 1973. We do not have notes on all the meetings with Mrs. Nixon, but we do have a note dated June 6, 1973, in which she approved the architectural improvements to the room and upgrading the ~~mediocre~~ collection of furniture by using the best pieces of the Seymour collection of furniture for the Queens' Bedroom, the Queens' Sitting Room, and the East Sitting Hall.

The wonderful collection of very beautiful and rather feminine American furniture by John and Thomas Seymour of Salem, Massachusetts was acquired from Mr. Vernon Stoneman of Boston during 1972. Mr. Stoneman gave the tambour pedimented secretary by the Seymours, now in the East Sitting Hall, valued in excess of \$50,000.

The basic fabrics for the Queens' Bedroom (draperies, bed hangings, upholsteries) were approved by Mrs. Nixon in the Spring of 1974 after a series of discussions on the improvements in the Room, dating back into 1973. This basic order was placed with Scalamandre in April 1974 and delivered to Browne Decorating





Company, Atlanta, Georgia, in June 1974. The first bill for fabrics amounting to \$3,907 was received in July 1974 but was not paid until December 1974. Supplemental orders for guimpe, fringe, jabots, and other materials were placed thereafter, after extensive consultations on colors and examination of samples by Mr. David Byers, Browne Decorating Company, Atlanta, and Mr. Edward Jones but not all items were delivered until early 1975. (See attached letter of October 28, 1975 from Mr. Byers).

These consultations, which happen on most fabrics for every room, are carried on between Mr. Jones and Mr. Byers in Georgia.

I am not concerned with most details once the basic fabric orders are placed. The bills for these fabrics to date amount to \$13,068 and have been paid for in 1975. Guimpe, fringe and jabots, etc. are often more expensive than the basic fabrics but are very correct and very necessary.

After the basic decisions are made, Mr. Jones or I place the basic orders for fabrics with Scalamandre or such other firms as may be necessary. Materials are delivered to Mr. Byers at Browne Decorating Company, Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Byers is one of many interior designers whose work is done in an independent shop in the very large firm of Browne Decorating Company, Atlanta.



This is the finest firm in the United States for restoration type draperies, bed hangings, etc. As the Metropolitan Museum and other major collections and collectors place their orders with Browne Decorating Company and because of the large volume of work done by this firm, deliveries are often quite slow. They try when possible to give preference to the White House. The person in charge of the shop has been absent for some time. Normally, we do not pay final bills until all the work in a room is finished. Because of the passage of so much time, we have paid part of the Scalamandre bills but not all. We do not pay Browne Decorating until an installation is completed. Per Mr. Byers' letter of October 21, attached, total cost of the new draperies in the new materials will be \$6206 which is not bad as costs go now. Cost of dressing the bed in the new materials amounts to \$3945.

The Queens' Bedroom is treated as a restoration room, and in our opinion the fabrics and designs should be the best and most authentic possible of the first quarter of the 19th century.

We now realize you like the rose taffeta material which is presently in the draperies and bed hangings in the room. As we have said in the past, however, we wish to have you at least see the proposed new draperies before you make a final decision. I think that when you see the new draperies and bed hangings, you will most likely



agree that they are much more beautiful than the present rose taffeta draperies. The new draperies and bed hangings are properly designed whereas the present draperies and bed hangings most definitely are not. The new draperies and bed hangings <sup>do</sup> will also ~~be~~ related <sup>Q</sup> to the other new upholsteries on chairs and sofa <sup>already</sup> in the Room. If you do not like the new draperies and bed hanging materials, they can of course be stored. Then we could make correctly designed draperies in place of the present ones with the present rose taffeta material. Perhaps most of the present rose taffeta material could be re-used, we are not sure. Boudin of Paris in the Kennedy Administration selected these materials. Boudin designed the draperies and bed hangings. Mr. DuPont, then Head of the Fine Arts Committee, did not approve Mrs. Kennedy's using Boudin's designs as they were not correct to an American period house.

If after seeing the new materials in place, you want to go back to the <sup>existing</sup> ~~old~~ rose taffeta material, <sup>replacement</sup> ~~new rose taffeta~~ material <sup>of the same design</sup> can be ordered from Jensen of Paris at \$150 if necessary. Cost of making the draperies in the rose taffeta material would be \$3699. Redoing the present bed correctly in the Jensen rose taffeta material would be \$4887 (see Mr. Byer's letter attached, dated November 7, 1975).

We have contributed funds on hand to complete all work done



to date and any foreseeable work in the future.

~~Upgrading of the collection of furniture in the Queens' Bedroom~~  
and replacing some very poor reproductions and second-rate antiques  
with the beautiful Seymour furniture (already in the Room) as well  
as using beautiful new materials for draperies and upholsteries will  
be a real step forward in the continuing work of refurbishing White  
House rooms correctly as they need it.

Accordingly, while you and the President are in China, we  
propose to install the mantel and chair railing which you have  
already approved. We will hang the new draperies in the new  
materials for you to see. We will install the new bed temporarily  
and take the present bed to Atlanta for redressing, hopefully in the  
new materials.

Incidentally, once the Queens' Room is finished, I think it  
quite possible that I can find a donor to underwrite the entire cost  
of improvements to the Room.



QUEENS BED ROOM

Summary

- 1972 Seymour furniture collection acquired - part given, part purchased from Mr. Vernon Stoneman, Boston, Massachusetts.
- December 1972 Paid Mr. Vernon Stoneman for Seymour Collection of furniture -----\$70,000
- May 1973 Paid Mr. Vernon Stoneman for Seymour Collection of furniture ----- \$53,550  
Seymour Secretary ----- \$45,000 pd. April 1974  
30,000 pd. Dec. 1974  
15,000 pd. Feb. 1975
- Spring 1973 Original discussions with Mrs. Nixon, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Conger on changes in Queens Room fabrics, furniture, draperies, upholsteries.
- June 6, 1973 Mrs. Nixon approved architectural changes (mantel, chair rail, cornices, etc.). Upgrade furniture with Seymour pieces.
- Spring 1974 Mrs. Nixon approved all basic fabric designs.
- April 1974 Basic fabric orders placed by Mr. Conger with Scalamandre. (Basic fabrics delivered July 1974); bills paid December 1974: \$3,907
- April 1974 and later Supplemental orders placed by Mr. Byers and Mr. Jones in 1974 and early 1975 after extensive consultations and reorders.  
*deliveries made*
- Supplemental fabric bills paid in 1975 ----\$13,048  
Unpaid fabric bills \$ 387
- Fall 1975 Browne Decorating Company to be paid:  
(work already done months ago)  
New draperies ----- \$6206  
Dressing new bed----- \$4975



Alternative Possibilities

Recommended: No. 1: Redress present bed in new materials -\$3945

Not Recommended:

No. 2: Rework and redress present bed in our own rose taffeta material -----\$4887  
(same price if new rose taffeta materials used)

Not Recommended:

No. 3: Redo in correct<sup>y</sup> designed ~~present~~ draperies <sup>using</sup>  
~~in~~ rose material -----<sup>^</sup>-----\$3699  
~~present~~

New trimmings - jabots, guimpe, etc. for draperies and bed to match rose taffeta would cost an undetermined amount, but approximately -----\$9000

Not Recommended:

Cost of new rose taffeta material for draperies and bed hangings only if needed -----\$20,000



Monday 11/24/75

4:10 Clem Conger brought in the attached for you to take to Mrs. Ford (needs to be approved before they leave).

Mr. Conger would like to talk with you (on the phone at least) before you take the package to Mrs. Ford.





November 25, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM CLEM CONGER

Back a long time ago when we had the rug made by Mr. Frank M. Michaelian, Spinning Wheel, in New York that is presently in the State Dining Room, Mr. Scouten suggested that we have an alternate rug made inasmuch as that one was such a bargain at \$12,000. It would be worth in the general market somewhere in excess of \$30,000. Mrs. Nixon, Mr. Scouten, Mr. Jones and I all worked on this subject of a second rug and the idea was to make it virtually identical in many ways, but a little bit warmer in feeling. These rugs are made in India, the only place in the world we are told, where there is a loom that can make a rug so wide. The State Dining Room rug measures 43" 5" x 28' x 9". Normally rugs cannot be made wider than 21 feet.

This alternate rug took about a year to make and has been at the warehouse for several months. We have been wanting to get it in for you to see. Unfortunately because of the large size, we would have to rent a truck at some expense to bring it in here. Mr. Scouten and I wonder if when you come back from China if you would mind going with me to the warehouse for just a few minutes to see it there. If this is not convenient, we will of course go ahead and have it brought in to the White House.

Because of the constant usage and constant spillage on the rug in the State Dining Room, it more than any other room needs an alternate rug. As you know, we try to have alternate rugs for all the principal rooms.





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*W. H.  
J. C. H. H. H. H. H.*

November 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MRS. BETTY FORD

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *Phil*

Attached is a memorandum prepared by Clem Conger after several consultations with me and after he had obtained the letters which are attached.

I am sending a copy at the same time to Rex Scouten, and I would be glad to meet with you and him whenever it is convenient for you late this afternoon.

Attachment

cc: Rex Scouten



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

SUBJ: "Materials for the Queens' Bedroom"

The original discussions with Mrs. Nixon on refurbishing the Queens' Bedroom began back in the Spring of 1973. We do not have notes on all the meetings with Mrs. Nixon, but we do have a note dated June 6, 1973, in which she approved the architectural improvements to the room and upgrading the collection of furniture by using the best pieces of the Seymour collection of furniture for the Queens' Bedroom, the Queens' Sitting Room, and the East Sitting Hall.

The wonderful collection of very beautiful and rather feminine American furniture by John and Thomas Seymour of Salem, Massachusetts was acquired from Mr. Vernon Stoneman of Boston during 1972. Mr. Stoneman gave the tambour pedimented secretary by the Seymours, now in the East Sitting Hall, valued in excess of \$50,000.

The basic fabrics for the Queens' Bedroom (draperies, bed hangings, upholsteries) were approved by Mrs. Nixon in the Spring of 1974 after a series of discussions on the improvements in the Room, dating back into 1973. This basic order was placed with Scalamandre in April 1974 and delivered to Browne Decorating



Company, Atlanta, Georgia, in June 1974. The first bill for fabrics amounting to \$3,907 was received in July 1974 but was not paid until December 1974. Supplemental orders for guimpe, fringe, jabots, and other materials were placed thereafter, after extensive consultations on colors and examination of samples by Mr. David Byers, Browne Decorating Company, Atlanta, and Mr. Edward Jones but not all items were delivered until early 1975. (See attached letter of October 28, 1975 from Mr. Byers).

These consultations, which happen on most fabrics for every room, are carried on between Mr. Jones and Mr. Byers in Georgia.

I am not concerned with most details once the basic fabric orders are placed. The bills for these fabrics to date amount to \$13,068 and have been paid for in 1975. Guimpe, fringe and jabots, etc. are often more expensive than the basic fabrics but are very correct and very necessary.

After the basic decisions are made, Mr. Jones or I place the basic orders for fabrics with Scalamandre or such other firms as may be necessary. Materials are delivered to Mr. Byers at Browne Decorating Company, Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Byers is one of many interior designers whose work is done in an independent shop in the very large firm of Browne Decorating Company, Atlanta.



This is the finest firm in the United States for restoration type draperies, bed hangings, etc. As the Metropolitan Museum and other major collections and collectors place their orders with Browne Decorating Company and because of the large volume of work done by this firm, deliveries are often quite slow. They try when possible to give preference to the White House. The person in charge of the shop has been absent for some time. Normally, we do not pay final bills until all the work in a room is finished. Because of the passage of so much time, we have paid part of the Scalandre bills but not all. We do not pay Browne Decorating until an installation is completed. Per Mr. Byers' letter of October 21, attached, total cost of the new draperies in the new materials will be \$6206 which is not bad as costs go now. Cost of dressing the bed in the new materials amounts to \$3945.

The Queens' Bedroom is treated as a restoration room, and in our opinion the fabrics and designs should be the best and most authentic possible of the first quarter of the 19th century.

We now realize you like the rose taffeta material which is presently in the draperies and bed hangings in the room. As we have said in the past, however, we wish to have you at least see the proposed new draperies before you make a final decision. I think that when you see the new draperies and bed hangings, you will most likely



agree that they are much more beautiful than the present rose taffeta draperies. The new draperies and bed hangings are properly designed whereas the present draperies and bed hangings most definitely are not. The new draperies and bed hangings do relate to the other new upholsteries on chairs and sofa already in the Room. If you do not like the new draperies and bed hanging materials, they can of course be stored. Then we could make correctly designed draperies in place of the present ones with present rose taffeta material. Perhaps most of the present rose taffeta material could be re-used, we are not sure. Boudin of Paris in the Kennedy Administration selected these materials. Boudin designed the draperies and bed hangings. Mr. DuPont, then Head of the Fine Arts Committee, did not approve Mrs. Kennedy's using Boudin's designs as they were not correct to an American period house.

If after seeing the new materials in place, you want to go back to the existing rose taffeta material, replacement material of the same design can be ordered from Jensen of Paris at \$150 if necessary. Cost of making the draperies in the rose taffeta material would be \$3699. Redoing the present bed correctly in the Jensen rose taffeta material would be \$4887 (See Mr. Byer's letter attached, dated November 7, 1975).

We have contributed funds on hand to complete all work done to date and any foreseeable work in the future.



While you and the President are in China, we propose to install the mantel and chair railing which you have already approved. We will hang the new draperies in the new materials for you to see. We will install the new bed temporarily and take the present bed to Atlanta for redressing, hopefully in the new materials.



QUEENS BED ROOM

Summary

Spring 1973 Original discussions with Mrs. Nixon, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Conger on changes in Queens' Room fabrics, furniture with Seymour pieces.

June 6, 1973 Mrs. Nixon approved architectural changes (mantel, chair rail, cornices, etc.). Upgrade furniture, with Seymour pieces.

Spring 1974 Basic fabric orders placed by Mr. Conger with Scalamandre. (Basic fabrics delivered July 1974); bills paid December 1974: \$3,907

April 1974 Supplemental orders placed by Mr. Byers and  
and later Mr. Jones, deliveries made in 1974 and early 1975 after extensive consultations and reorders.

Supplemental fabric bills paid in 1975 ----\$13,048  
Unpaid fabric bills \$ 387

Fall 1975 Browne Decorating Company to be paid:  
(work already done months ago)  
New draperies -----\$6206  
Dressing new bed ----- \$4975

Alternative Possibilities continued next page



Alternative Possibilities

Recommended: No. 1: Redress present bed in new materials - \$3945

Not Recommended:

No. 2: Rework and redress present bed in our own rose taffeta material -----\$4887  
(same price if new rose taffeta materials used)

Not Recommended:

No. 3: Redo in correctly designed draperies using present rose material -----\$3699

New trimmings - jabots, guimpe, etc. for draperies and bed to match rose taffeta would cost an undetermined amount, but approximately -----\$9000

Not Recommended:

Cost of new rose taffeta material for draperies and bed hangings only if needed-----\$20,000





C  
W.E.BROWNE DECORATING CO.  
443 Peachtree Street, N.E.  
ATLANTA 30308

NOVEMBER 7, 1975

Rec'd in Curator's OFF  
November 17, 1975

MR. CLEMENT E. CONGER  
CURATOR  
WHITE HOUSE  
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

DEAR MR. CONGER:

I AM SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY IN GETTING THIS QUOTATION TO YOU BUT I WAS ANXIOUS TO BE SURE OF ITS ACCURACY AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO GET THE YARDAGE PRICES THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR EACH ITEM REQUIRED.

THE BED THAT IS AT PRESENT IN THE QUEEN'S BEDROOM IS OF COURSE LARGER THAN THE BED WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED, BUT AFTER CAREFUL PRICE ESTIMATES WE HAVE COME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING FIGURES. THE BED THAT IS AT PRESENT IN THE QUEEN'S BEDROOM WOULD COST \$4,887.50 TO RE-DRAPE EXACTLY AS IT IS NOW DONE. *cool*  
THE SAME BED DONE WITH THE FABRICS WHICH ARE USED ON THE UPHOLSTERY OF THE CHAIRS AND ON THE DRAPERIES WOULD COST \$3,945.00. *new*  
THE PRINCIPAL REASON IS THAT THE MATERIAL USED IS LESS COST PER YARD THAN THE MATERIAL NOW ON THE BED, AND WE WERE ALSO USING A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DESIGN WHICH WE THOUGHT MIGHT BE PRETTIER IN THE ROOM WITH THE NEW FABRICS.

IT WOULD TAKE US APPROXIMATELY FOUR WEEKS TO RE-DO THE BED AND GET IT BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE. IN THE MEANTIME, IF IT IS SATISFACTORY WITH YOU, THE BED WE HAVE ALREADY DONE COULD STAY IN THE ROOM UNTIL THE OTHER IS COMPLETED.

SINCERELY,

W. E. BROWNE DECORATING COMPANY

*David Richmond Byers III*

DAVID RICHMOND BYERS III  
VICE PRESIDENT

DRB:RM



W.E.BROWNE DECORATING CO.

443 Peachtree Street, N.E.

ATLANTA 30308

October 3, 1975

Mr. Clement E. Conger,  
Curator,  
White House,  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Conger:

Pursuant to your request of several weeks ago we will give you some idea of the transaction discussed involving potential delivery of work for the Queen's Bedroom on the second floor.

Mr. Conger, you may recall that the initial discussion was made in the spring of 1973 after the furniture and an Aubusson rug was acquired. When we made an installation in Washington in the fall of 1973 we discussed the potentiality of using and working a scheme around the Stoneman Collection of New England <sup>most was purchased</sup> furniture donated to the White House for this room. At that time we discussed the idea of reworking the plaster work, cornice and the treatment in the room, i. e., the dado and moldings to conform with the New England scale and character of the mantelpiece selected. Also, at that time, the First Lady was very interested and understood our reasoning, as well as the architect, Mr. Jones', behind the rescaling of the design and the period precedent for the detail and treatment of this room.

We got together a scheme for you of an antique wallpaper of the period of the room which we were suggesting as a softening effect for the pictures and the scale of the furniture to be used. We discussed the potentiality of obtaining a rug that would conform more in period and character, scale and coloring to the proposed arrangement. At that time we got together a scheme of fabrics to blend with the antique wallpaper that we were suggesting to be reproduced for the room and using the existing antique mirror from the dressing room above the mantel to conform with the scale of the room. We proposed a scheme of special stripe to be woven in colors as sample submitted, to be used for curtains and the antique bed treatment, with a brocaded lining for the bed, inside curtains and bedspread of strawberry patterned silk on a special blue green background as submitted. After the presentation of our scheme and proposed suggestions of fabrics to be especially woven were approved the first of the year, we confirmed the orders with Scalamandre in April. <sup>1975</sup> Sufficient striped fabric to be fabricated in special colors, as approved, for the curtains and bed



hangings was then ordered from Paris to go with the Scalamandre brocade. The manner of treatment was approved from the suggestion made, as photostat enclosed from Mr. Montgomery's book.

It was discussed that we would do a curtain treatment on the window with curtains draped with tassel mold fringe and a valance on rod similar to that treatment at the 19th Century show at the Metropolitan Museum exhibition, this seemed to delight the First Lady.

During the season following we were able to find examples of an antique braid, fringe trimming, etc. to be fabricated for this room by Scalamandre. It took some months to get the silk dyed, wood molds made for the fringe and samples approved. During this time Miss Olsen had retired from Scalamandre. There was some delay in the approval of the samples woven after the trimming department was taken over by Mr. Stagmier. After all of the trimmings, brocade, etc. were approved from samples prepared, the orders went into work with Scalamandre with the exception of the stripe for the curtains which we were to supply from our sources in France. After fabrication of the fabrics and trimmings, it took some months to receive the order given in total and these were billed to the White House by Scalamandre at cost upon receipt of same by us, as ordered April 1974.

When the above fabrics were received, they were put into work by our workrooms to be installed at your convenience. It was understood that the fireplace in the room is to be changed and that the room would be painted and wallpaper eliminated; the architectural changes are not to be made as originally discussed, but the mantel and special facings are to be completed in the fall, meaning approximately mid November, as you recently confirmed. We are planning to make installation upon completion of these alterations. It is not unusual to take eighteen months to assemble orders for a decorating job when special fabrications and dyeing are necessary for execution of the scheme.

It will be necessary to bring the present bed to Atlanta to develop the design and execute the patterns properly.

Trusting that the above explanations will clarify the time sequence of the execution of the order.

Sincerely,

W. E. BROWNE DECORATING COMPANY

*David Richmond Byers III*

David Richmond Byers III  
Vice President

DRB:dt







A

**W.E.BROWNE DECORATING CO.**  
443 Peachtree Street, N.E.  
ATLANTA 30308

*Received in Curator's  
Office - Nov. 3, 1975*

OCTOBER 28, 1975

MR. CLEMENT E. CONGER  
CURATOR  
WHITE HOUSE  
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

DEAR MR. CONGER:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR RECENT REQUEST TO SEND YOU INFORMATION FROM OUR RECORDS AS TO SCHEDULED ORDERS OF MATERIALS AND PROGRESS OF WORK ON THE QUEEN'S BEDROOM, I HAVE THE FOLLOWING TO REPORT.

AS I RECALL, A RUG WAS OBTAINED FOR THIS ROOM BY YOU TO REPLACE THE MODERN AUBUSSON IN THE ROOM IN THE LATE SUMMER OF 1973. I WAS INFORMED BY MR. JONES THAT FABRICS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED AND APPROVED BY YOU AND THE COMMITTEE AND WHAT DESIGNS WERE SUGGESTED. I MADE STUDIES AND QUANTITY ESTIMATES AND PLACED THE ORDER FOR ALL MAJOR QUANTITIES OF MATERIALS JUST AFTER THE FIRST OF APRIL 1974. THIS INCLUDED FABRICS FOR DRAPERIES, BED AND ALL UPHOLSTERING. OF COURSE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT BRAID, TRIMMINGS AND SPECIAL FRINGES ARE ALWAYS ORDERED LATER AS THE SCHEME IS DEVELOPED AND SPECIAL SAMPLES ARE APPROVED. AS SAMPLES ARE APPROVED, SOMETIMES AFTER FOUR OR FIVE SUBMISSIONS, THEY ARE PUT INTO WORK. AS A CONSEQUENCE, DELIVERIES OF THESE SPECIAL ITEMS EXTENDED INTO LATE 1974 AND EARLY 1975.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, UPON THIRTY DAYS NOTICE WE COULD HAVE INSTALLED THIS ROOM AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER 1974.

SINCERELY,

W. E. BROWNE DECORATING COMPANY  
*David Richmond Byers III*  
DAVID RICHMOND BYERS III  
VICE PRESIDENT

DRB:RM



W H Normashings

December 4, 1975

Dear Mrs. Klaphor:

I am returning your most wonderful  
book -- "Official White House China -  
1789 to the Present."

It was very helpful to us, and we thank  
you for so generously loaning us your  
personal copy.

Sincerely,

Eva Daughtrey  
Secretary to  
Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Mrs. Margaret Brown Klaphor  
Room 4109  
History and Technology Building  
Division of Political History  
Washington, D. C. 20560



In connection with a request from Rod Buchen, I checked to get information about White House china. Borrowed from the Smithsonian a book entitled "Official White House China - 1789 to the Present" -- which I borrowed from Mrs. Margaret Brown Klaphor (Division of Political History, Room 4109 History and Technology Building (between 12th and 14th Streets on Constitution), Washington, D. C. 20560.

Talked with Edie Mayo

381-5244

Book can be obtained through the McGraw-Hill Book Store at the Smithsonian.





# W.E.BROWNE DECORATING CO.

443 Peachtree Street, N.E.

ATLANTA 8

October 21, 1975

Mr. Clement E. Conger, Curator,  
White House,  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Conger:

Listed herewith are the itemized decorations to complete the Queen's Bedroom; the room is to be installed at your convenience after the completion of alterations around mid November:

- A. Two pairs of curtains of special imported pink and green stripe, fabricated with a draped valance on pole, as per engraving by Mesangeres Marbles et Objets de Gout 1796-1830 and interpreted by us for the Metropolitan Museum show in 1970 and approved by the Fine Arts Commission. We have used own special trimmings and braid, faced back with own special green taffeta using antique pole ends.

Labor for all above:	\$ 3,699.00 Pr.
53 yds. special stripe @ \$24.00 yd. (Approx. forty (40) yds. will be (retained for future use. 17 yds. billed 1/31/75, work order 7861, sent to Le Volsie for covering own sofa by him)	1,512.00
2 Pr. Antique pole ends in gilt wood deacquisitioned for the above Metropolitan show:	995.00

- B. The antique teaater bed (from the White House Collection) for use in the Queen's Bedroom will have side and back curtains and outside valance draped to conform to the photograph shown from Mr. Montgomery's book of Wintheur, approved by The Fine Arts Committee using own braid and fringe; the ceiling and inside curtains have been fabricated from own especially made silk strawberry pattern brocade. The bedspread and bolster made from the same, and special green taffeta is used for the flounce. The outside curtains and valance made from the special imported stripe as the curtains.





Price for installation of the bed will include the posts extended, polishing, restoring the antique bowknot for the canopy, special fitted box springs and mattress:

\$ 3,995.00

40 yds. of special imported striped taffeta from France:

980.00

(Approximately twenty (20) yds. will be retained for future use.)

total 91,181  
to be rec.

We have had four antique New England side chairs restored in paint and gilt for this room, these chairs purchased from Arpad by The Fine Arts Committee:

895.00

Trusting the above is the information desired, I am

Sincerely,

W. E. BROWNE DECORATING COMPANY

*David Richmond Byers III*

David Richmond Byers III  
Vice President

DRB:dt



W/H Overmiching

Friday 11/28/75

10:05

Clem Conger is in his State Dept. office -- will be back in his White House office at noon and will be available any time after that to discuss your meeting with Mrs. Ford.

Mr. Bucher said  
Rex Stouten knows -  
discuss it with him.

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1:10 advised Conger's office

