

The original documents are located in Box 24, folder “Nixon, Richard - Furniture” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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January 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DON RUMSFELD

FROM: JACK MARSH

I am informed that Jack Brennan is trying to reach you from San Clemente. The purpose of his call is to advise you that the Archives has informed RMN that he owns a table in the Cabinet Room. RMN has instructed Brennan to ask you, and no one else, to ask the President if he wants the table. If he does, then RMN will be pleased to donate the table to the U. S. Government.

In your conversation, you might raise the question as to whether or not there is any White House furniture at San Clemente. (The Chief Usher says RMN still has a bill signing desk at San Clemente that has been inventoried as White House furniture. In order for RMN to keep it, the President would have to take affirmative action to dedicate it to RMN for the latter's lifetime, or for however long he might choose to keep it during his lifetime.)





Memo from JOM to Rumsfeld

As I am informed that Jack Brennan is trying to reach you from San Clemente. The purpose of his call is to advise you that the Archives has ~~informed~~ ^{informed RAN that he} ~~has~~ ^{has} a table in the Cabinet Room. RAN has instructed Brennan to ask you, and no one else, to ask the President if he wants the table, if he does, then RAN will be pleased to donate the table to the U.S. government.

In your conversation, you might raise the question as to whether or not there is any White House furniture at San Clemente. (The Chief Clerk says RAN still has a bill signing desk at San Clemente that has been inventoried as White House furniture. An order for RAN to keep it, the President would have to ~~take~~ take affirmative action to ^{recede} ~~recede~~ ^{it} to RAN for ~~his~~ ^{the latter's} lifetime, or for however long he might choose to keep it during his lifetime).

426

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

4 March [1975]

- Bill Caselman checking
on both Cabinet table and
table & desk at S. C. - unwrapping
w/ GSA - (Bill C. says
juris. is w/ clutens)



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

3 March -

(1)

RAB spoke of Rex -

Rex will check up Cawelman
re table & desk str. from Rex
to GSA -

(2)



Miss Call
Scouter
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

GSA - Mary FOSTER
(Sampson)

My Scouter should
write to Sampson,
saying on loan to
Nixon, as well wish they
stay there until the
rest of his life -

John & Jack -



② The letters re Nixon
I am not still coming -
Now they get Ford to thank
NIXON -

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Hold both
of them 'til
we get letters
from Gully -



AWAITING LETTERS FROM RMN AND
GSA

(also date on letter)

Cabinet
Table

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM TO: PHIL BUCHEN
FROM: JACK MARSH
SUBJECT: CABINET TABLE

RMN, through Jack Brennan and Bill Gulley, originally indicated his desire several months ago, to make a gift of the Cabinet table to the U. S. Government.

For reasons of his own, RMN wanted to be certain that if he actually offered the table as a gift, it would be accepted. President Ford, upon being advised of the informal offer, indicated his willingness to accept.

To formalize the offer of the Cabinet table, RMN has already submitted a letter to Art Sampson at GSA. A formal letter of acceptance has been sent to RMN from GSA.

The Cabinet table is now the legal property of the U. S. Government.

cc: DRumsfeld
DCheney
DHoopes



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Memo from JOM to Phil Bucken
(Copy to Cheney & Humphreys) + Hoopes

Subject: Cabinet Table

RMN, through Jack Browman and Bill Gulley, ~~first~~ ^{originally} indicated his desire several months ago, to make a gift of the Cabinet table to the U.S. Government. RMN had paid for almost \$5,000. for the table ~~at the time of its original purchase.~~ ~~Since~~

~~Since~~ For reasons of his own, RMN wanted to be certain that if he actually offered the table as a gift, it would be accepted. ~~Through~~ ~~President~~ President Ford, upon being advised of the informal offer, indicated his willingness to accept.

To formalize the offer of the Cabinet table, RMN has ~~now~~ ~~been~~ ~~advised~~ through Bill Gulley, that ~~it~~ ~~has~~ ~~already~~ submitted a ~~formal~~ letter to ~~the~~ Art Sampson at GSA. A formal letter of acceptance has been ~~sent~~ sent to RMN from GSA.

The Cabinet table is now the legal property of the U.S. Government.

Enclosures: Copies of letters from RMN and GSA.



#1. Writing table and desk - Gully ~~declines~~
GSA procedure to be followed to make the
~~request to the man from the GSA for papers left~~

24 Feb - Gully advises GSA has already
accomplished the ~~the~~ necessary paperwork to
permit RAN to retain the table and desk
"for his lifetime". I advised Gully that I
thought this could only be done directly by
Pres. Ford - GSA said "not necessary" to Gully.
At my request, GSA is sending me
copies of paperwork that presumably
accomplished this transaction.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

① The other table -
KMN would be it -
small table - if they
don't want to, fine

February 24, 1975

MEMO TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE

- 1) Writing table and Desk - 24 February -
Gulley advises GSA has already accomplished the necessary paperwork to permit RMN to retain the table and desk "for his lifetime". I advised him that I thought this could only be done directly by President Ford - GSA said "not necessary" to Gulley. At my request, GSA is sending us copies of paperwork that presumably accomplished this transition.

RAR:cb



February 24, 1975

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March

February 15, 1975

FEB 15 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR DICK CHENEY

The President has no problem on the Cabinet table becoming a gift. As long as it is handled properly and legally.

D
DONALD RUMSFELD

- is physically in the cabinet room now - Nixon is 85% of - (Gully will help w/ Sawyer no procedure)

JAN 22 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 22, 1975

Memorandum for: Mr. Jack Marsh

From: Rex Scouten 

Subject: Nixon Transition

The House Appropriations Hearings for the Executive Residence are normally held in March. I feel certain there will be questions on the following unresolved matters concerning the Nixon Transition:

I. Manola and Josepha Sanchez were placed on the Executive Residence payroll on January 20, 1969 at the request of President Nixon. Manola served as a butler and personal aide to the President. Josepha served as a maid in the Residence.

The resignation was, of course, a new experience for all of us and although we were aware of the restrictions of our appropriation authority, the Sanchez's departed with the President and Mrs. Nixon on August 9 but remained on the Executive Residence Payroll.

Following Congressional inquiries, the attached letter was sent to Senator Montoya, Chairman of our Senate Appropriations Committee on September 20, 1974, indicating the Executive Residence Appropriation would be reimbursed for the salaries of Manola and Fina Sanchez from August 10 to whatever date of separation from our payroll.

The Sanchez's resigned from the Executive Residence on October 5, 1974. The amount of their combined



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2

salaries from August 9 to October 5 was \$3,647.39. No funds were expended for transportation or per diem.

We will surely be asked about the reimbursement.

II.

On July 24, 1969, President Nixon directed that a writing table and desk (Executive Residence property) be sent to San Clemente for his use at the "Western White House".

Writing Table, rectangular with two drawers in front of table. Legs are curved with slipper feet. Came to White House in 1902. It was transferred to San Clemente July 24, 1969.

Desk, double pedestal with three drawers on each side and three horizontal drawers across top of desk. Brown leather top. Gift to the White House in 1952 from John McShain who worked on renovation of the White House. Transferred to San Clemente July 24, 1969.

Following informal inquiries concerning this property, a Dick Freeze of GSA called the Curator's Office in late September 1974 to say that Ronald Ziegler had informed GSA that President Nixon wished to keep the table and desk for the remainder of his lifetime.

No further action has been taken; however, I believe we will be asked about "any White House property at San Clemente". In my opinion, only President Ford personally can legally grant President Nixon's request to retain the property.



out there
out there
Yulley will check procedure for GSA for how they -

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3

III.

When the President and Mrs. Nixon departed the White House on August 9, practically all of their personal property was left at the Executive Residence. I assumed the responsibility of packing and inventoring their property, sorting out State Gifts for the Gift Unit and selecting items for the Nixon Library.

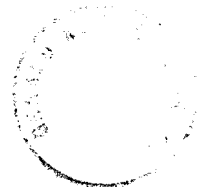
All State Gift items and Library material have been removed from the Executive Residence and sent to the proper locations.

All personal property was transported to the Executive Warehouse (operated by the National Park Service) and stored. One load was transported by GSA from the warehouse to Andrews Air Force Base on August 27 and one load by the U. S. Army on October 10. Still in storage at the warehouse is the equivalent of a 25 foot moving van load of Nixon personal property.

I would deeply appreciate some advice on how best to respond to Congressional questions on these matters.

Thank you.

*14 Feb
RAH spoke
w/ key re about
3 items today*



Hough 9/20
E. Seater 9/21
Fish 9/22

08815

22-NCP (APB)

September 20, 1974

Honorable Joseph M. Montoya
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Montoya:

We are very pleased to provide the following information concerning the arrangements under which Mr. & Mrs. Sanchez have been detailed to San Clemente, California, as requested by Mr. Kane.

This office is very sensitive to the statements made before the Appropriation Committees of the Congress that employees of the Executive Residence work only in the Residence. However, in this unusual transition it was agreed to release these two employees for a limited period of time with the understanding that reimbursement would be made.

We are in no position to know the source of funds from which reimbursement would be made.

We understand that the basis for the request for the detail was the authority contained in Public Law 88-277, whereby any employee of any agency of any branch of the Government may be detailed with or without reimbursement to assist former Presidents as well as Presidents-elect during the transition period.

We hope that this provides you with the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

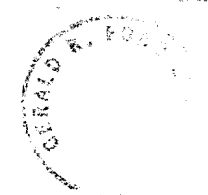
(Sgd.) Manus J. Fish, Jr.

Director, National Capital Parks

cc: NCP Surname Copy
NCP File Copy
Mr. Rick Robbins, SOL
Mr. Hough

FPHough:bf 9/20/74

Aug 10 - art 5
3,647.39



MAR 2 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 12, 1975

*hold this
in
pending*

MEMORANDUM TO: DICK CHENEY
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

Dick, FYI, I now have Bill Casselman working on the final stages of the somewhat tortured and contorted action on the Cabinet table and "San Clemente table and desk" matters. I will give you a final report.

cc: BCasselman

ok



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4/10/75

Barry Roth is working on both the Higgins matter (Julie Nixon courier flights) and the "San Clemente table and desk" - will see what can be done about both at the earliest possible date.

Per Russ

March 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: DICK CHENEY

FROM: RUSS ROURKE

Dick, FYI, I now have Bill Casselman working on the final stages of the somewhat tortured and contorted action on the Cabinet table and "San Clemente table and desk" matters. I will give you a final report.

cc: BCasselman

RAR:cb



ROTH

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Casselman

Cabinet table,

o ruying table,

To Russo

Date 4/9 Time 4:00

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M. Judy
of J. Jones' of.

Phone _____

Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	<input type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message _____

GAO
Julie [unclear]
me [unclear]

Operator all

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2/17

R.

Give Phil B.

a written memo

on this.

or

April 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: DICK CHENEY
 BILL GULLEY

FROM: RUSS ROURKE

The Cabinet table case closed. Anticipate final action on signing desk and table shortly.



APR 28 1975

April 16, 1975

Honorable Richard M. Nixon
La Casa Pacifica
San Clemente, California 92672

Dear President Nixon:

In accordance with the authority granted me under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, and the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955, I am honored to accept on behalf of the people of the United States your offer of January 31, 1975, of the custom-made mahogany table in the Cabinet Room of the White House. President Ford and his Cabinet continue to use the table, which you purchased and placed in the Cabinet Room in 1970.

Please accept my personal thanks, as well as the gratitude of the American people, for a splendid gift, which, while of great inherent value, is historically far more valuable as a legacy of your Presidency.

Sincerely,

(Signed) A. F. Sampson

Arthur F. Sampson
Administrator

RICHARD NIXON

LA CASA PACIFICA
SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA

January 31, 1975

Dear Mr. Sampson:

At this time I would like to carry out formally an intention I have had since 1969 by presenting to the United States of America the custom-made mahogany table in the Cabinet Room of the White House as a legacy to the American people of my tenure there, and in the tradition of similar acts on the part of previous Presidents.

Documentation concerning its purchase and payment, in the form of xerox copies of originals, is enclosed for your information and records.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



The Honorable Arthur F. Sampson
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20405

ISLAND TRUST CO. BUFFALO, NEW YORK
MAR 27 1970

ISLAND TRUST CO. BUFFALO, NEW YORK
MAR 27

MAR 30

MAR 30

RICHARD M. NIXON
PATRICIA R. NIXON

4866

No. 20050



March 23

63-138
631
19 70

PAY FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTEEN AND 84/100----- DOLLARS \$*4,816.84

TO THE ORDER OF

KITTINGER COMPANY, INC.

RICHARD M. NIXON
PATRICIA R. NIXON

PAID

MAR 31 1970

Richard M. Nixon

⑆063100138⑆ 200527⑈

⑈000048168

Kettinger FURNITURE

KETTINGER COMPANY, INC.
1893 E. WOOD AVE. • BUFFALO, N. Y. 14207

ORDER NO. AND DATE	DEPT.	DATE ENTERED	OUR ORDER NO.	DATE WANTED	SALESMAN.
		12/4/69	2-88		MAIL (HAYES WAS
				INVOICE NO. 3640	INV. DATE 3/11/

TERMS: F.O.B. FACTORY - ~~XX~~ 15 DAYS - NET 30 DAYS
1%

TO •

/IA

CATALOG NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	CUSTOM SKETCH NO. K3563-1 3 PEDESTALS #K1444 MAHOGANY SIZE - 22'6" LONG X 7' WIDE X 29 1/2" H. TOP - 1-3/4" THICK WITH REEDED EDGE LEATHER INSERT - LACKAWANNA'S #AWM123 BROWN TABLE 1 EA. @			4777.50
	DELIVERY CHARGES			88.00
				<u>4865.50</u>



INVOICE

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

Jay *of above*
Bene

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".

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1975

Jack --

After careful study of the attached, I would strongly recommend option 2 (despite the fact that it might ruffle Rex Scouten's feathers a little). I don't think there is any danger of a mass exodus and re-distribution of White House furniture.

As you will recall, there is a desire of RMN to retain this property for his lifetime. It is my understanding that the President approved this request.

Option 2 is the only mechanism through which this arrangement can be facilitated.

R
Russ

R - discuss w/wh