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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

## **RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY**

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#### PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

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n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

WASHINGTON

March 16, 1983

Dear Ms. Fink:

Your letter of January 20, 1983 to the President regarding the Lipizzaner stallion has been referred to me for response.

Although your concern for the welfare of the stallion is most appreciated, please be advised that neither the President nor the United States government own the horse. Accordingly, decisions regarding its care are not the President's to make. I recommend that you direct any further questions regarding the animal to the Austrian Embassy.

Thank you for your kind expression of concern.

Sincerely,

# Orig. signed by FFF

Fred F. Fielding Counsel to the President

Ms. Leah Fink 5900 Arlington Avenue Riverdale, NY 10471

FFF:DBW/kl FFFielding // DBWaller Subj. Chron.

Deanna: Kaina Small Sent this durity to us.

5900 achington Cenemie Riverdnie 7. 4. 10471 January 20 1183 Mr. Ronald Reagan . 31305 Cle The trhik House A washington . D.C. Last month four were honored with the presentation of Den m. Reagen a 12 year old beforming Lipingine hore, maestoro Blanca of Vienna's Spanish Riting School. berhaps this sounds strange, in The midst of all the twomoil and violence in our land, as all over the world. But lonliners hits all people at sometime - - - and animils feel That sense, Too. I refer TO The Lipizzioner house who was presented TO you, who was Taken away from the group of horse with whom the performed --- hui own group of friends, how he stays alone at a farm -

gerer work outs alone - no longer doing what he has been trained To do - To perform as past of a group, I worder if his aloneness may in Time not her robust sperit. Is it fair to do Thes TO such a wonderful animal? I be is stell at the manyland farm is it passible somehow to have hem returned TO bei own performing group? I know you care about horses. allanimilis we of concern to me, and so The Time To write this letter is as important to me as prunning The country 12 to you, Contielly your

ه <sup>ن</sup>ه ا

DECEMBER 2, 1982

# K. Insights and anecdotes from N. Y. Post critics' notebooks

# Which horse that horse?

A HORSE is a horse of course, unless you're the President and the horse is a Lipizzaner.

As everybody should know, Mr. Reagan was recently presented in a dramatic ceremony on the White House lawn with a fully mature, 12-year-old performing Lipizzaner horse, Maestoso Blanca of Vienna's aristocratic Spanish Riding School. Its name indicates its specific noble lineage dating back more than 400 years. The Lipizzaners return Tuesday for four more days at Madison Square Garden.

Shortly after receiving

the horse our President was observed in California riding a snowy white specimen looking remarkably like Maestoso Blanca — whose nickname is Amadeus. (The story goes round "that when the Mozart music to which the horses "dance" was played to Maestoso Blanca, his spirit and his legs seemed to quicken, hence the nickname.)

Alas, Reagan's recent mount was not Maestoso — or Amadeus — who was having a lonely momentary work-out at the Dressage Dedication Farm of Helene Clifford in Sykesville, Md., where the Lipizzaners were guests when they first arrived here. But at least it was not a horse of another color.

- HARRIETT JOHNSON P 11 2

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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

## **RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY**

## **CLASSIFICATION SECTION**

No. of Additional Correspondents:	Media:	Individual Codes:	4.000_	 
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PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

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n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan		С-Сору
n - 2 - Ronald Reagan		D - Official document G - Message
n - 3 - Ron n - 4 - Dutch		H - Handcarried
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n - 7 - Ronnie		O - Memo P - Photo
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WASHINGTON

#### July 5, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM H. COLDIRON SOLICITOR DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FROM:

RICHARD A. HAUSER DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Letter from Charles Wilson about "The President's Acre" Cemetery

Attached is a copy of a somewhat unusual letter to the President, whose author contends that in 1817, one of his ancestors deeded a cemetery near Lancaster, Ohio to President James Monroe, which gift has supposedly been "accepted" by each new President until recent times.

Our office has learned that Mr. Wilson and others have sent similar letters to other recent Presidents, including Lyndon Johnson, and have been advised that the cemetery is neither owned by the Government nor a part of the national cemetery system. I have repeated that advice in my response to Wilson, a copy of which is also attached. Unidentified literature found in the Johnson Presidential Library does describe this cemetery, however, as "The President's Acre."

I am forwarding Wilson's letter and our response both because this may be of some passing interest to you, and because we have suggested to Wilson that any further questions he may have are probably best directed to your office. I don't think you need write to him, though, unless and until he gets in touch with you. Thank you.

Attachments

RAH:PJR 7/2/83 cc: RAHauser PJRusthoven Subject Chron.

File cypie. (sig. Stange littahunets)

WASHINGTON

14 A. 10 - 10 - 10

July 5, 1983

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for your letter to the President requesting that he "accept" the cemetery that you believe was conveyed by one of your ancestors to President James Monroe in 1817 and that, to quote your letter, "until about 7 years ago was accepted by each new President after inauguration."

In looking into this matter, we learned that this identical question has been raised in correspondence to other recent Presidents, including in a letter you wrote to President Lyndon B. Johnson over fourteen years ago, in December 1968. As I believe you have previously been advised, this cemetery is neither owned by the Government nor a part of the national cemetery system. Hence, the Government cannot assume any responsibility for its maintenance or upkeep, and the President cannot honor your request that he "accept" the cemetery.

If you have any further questions about this matter, I suggest you direct them to the Office of the Solicitor, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Hauser

Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. Charles Wilson 7420 West 83rd Street Los Angeles, California 90045 RAH:PJR 7/2/83 cc: RAHauser ✓ PJRusthoven Subject Chron.

bcc: William H. Coldiron

MEMORANDUM

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

#### July 2, 1983

RICHARD A. HAUSER

FROM:

FOR:

PETER J. RUSTHOVEN

SUBJECT:

Letter from Charles Wilson about "The President's Acre" Cemetery

The particular denizen of my rapidly emptying kennel is, as you will readily infer from the subject line, one of the more unusual ever to plant its wagging tail in my in-box. It is also one of the more ancient and, much as I hate to do so, it seems time to put a leash on this creature and lead it across West Executive Avenue to your office (particularly since dogs age approximately five times as rapidly as does an Associate Counsel to the President).

Mr. Wilson claims that his ancestor Nathaniel Wilson "conveyed a private family cemetery near Lancaster, Ohio to the President of the United States on October 24, 1817." Wilson also advises the President "that until about 7 years ago this cemetery was accepted by each new President after inauguration [sic], and that his "family would appreciate you [sic] continuing the tradition and accepting the cemetery."

Karen Whitney, who was commissioned by yours truly to learn what she could about this matter, discovered that Wilson and a few other individuals have written with some regularity to occupants of the Oval Office and their subordinates seeking Governmental acceptance and confirmation of this historic and munificent conveyance. Karen specifically obtained from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Library copies of correspondence on this very issue, in which Associate Special Counsel to the President W. DeVier Pierson (best known, as you may recall from various OLC memoranda on Executive privilege, for his well-documented refusal to testify before the Congress) learned that the Wilson family's interest in this matter apparently includes (aside from an understandable desire for whatever fame may be derived from its ancestor's action) an equally understandable desire that the Government assume the responsibility for maintenance of this historic, if somewhat morbid, real estate. Pierson also learned that the cemetery is neither owned by the Government nor a part of the national cemetery system. Copies of these Johnson documents (including a photocopied page from an unidentified book describing the cemetery as "The President's Acre" and "America's Strangest Landmark") are attached for your information and edification.

In checking with the Department of Interior, Karen found nothing to contradict the advice rendered by the Johnson White House. Therefore, in keeping with our desire to show deference, to the extent appropriate, to the views even of Democrat predecessors on matters affecting the institution of the Presidency, I think we should respect and reflect Pierson's conclusions in our own reply to Mr. Wilson. I also recommend that we indicate that any further inquiries he may have on this matter be directed to the Solicitor's Office at the Interior. Finally, I think we should advise the Solicitor of this letter and our response, so he will have a head start on the matter when Wilson writes to him.

Attached for your review and signature are (1) a letter to Wilson, with blind copy to Interior Solicitor William Coldiron, and (2) a short memorandum for Coldiron forwarding copies of Wilson's letter and our reply.

Attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON 4/25 Poter, Here is into on the Wilson cemetary that the LBJ library sent me. KW.

December 19, 1968

President L. B. Johnson White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

DEC 24 1953

There is a little stone walled cemetery three miles southwest of Lancaster, Ohio, that was given to President Madison by Rev. Nathaniel Wilson, my (four greats) grandfather. Rev. Wilson, a Presbyterian minister, was greatly concerned about the life and death of his people, much as you are. Could you tell me whether the cemetery is still being handed down from President to President? Who should I contact to learn more of its present status?

Sincerely yours,

Charles Wile

Charles H. <u>Wilson</u> 7420 West 83rd St. Los Angeles, Calif. 90045



SOCIAL FILES

1967 AUG 10 AM 8 13

August 3, 1967

Family CEMETERY

Deed

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Congressman Miller has forwarded to us your letter concerning the old cemetery near Lancaster, Ohio.

The Associate Special Counsel to the President has checked into this matter, and he advises us that an investigation was made of this property in 1948 and again in 1959. These investigations determined that the cometery is not owned by the government, nor is it a part of the national cometery system.

Hence, it would be inappropriate for the President or the federal government to assume responsibility for maintenance. If this was done, the government would be called upon to maintain numerous other properties over which it has no control.

It is Mrs. Johnson's hope that citizens will take pride in sites of local historic significance, and she welcomes your constructive interest.

With best wishes. Nathaniel Wilson, Jr. Sincerely, Federal Government 117)11 De Vier Pearson Blas Abell Social Secretary "The President's Acre" Mr. Henry F. Davidson 1008 Urana Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43224 BEAUTIFICATION MUM Southern Ohio Covered Bridge Association, Draft - W. DeVier Pierson/CW/kj LIBLARY

GHB

MEMORANDUM

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Le g a

TO: DeVier Pearson

FROM: Cynthia Wilson Comment

RE: Attached letter from Congressman Clarence E. Miller

This is a rather ridiculous subject, but unfortunately the Congressman's office seems to be interested in pursuing it. They are checking locally to see if deed is recorded.

Apparently in 1817, a man in Ohio deeded his family cemetery to the President to be handed down to successive Presidents. The cemetery is neglected, and I am sure what these people want is for the federal government to assume responsibility for its upkeep.

Could you tell me whether property deeded to the federal government in this manner does become the government's responsibility? It would seem to me that it would have to be formally accepted, or else everyone would dump their property on the government to assure that it was cared for.

According to the Congressman's office, the cemetery has received much local publicity, and this story is widely believed in that area.

Sorry to bother you with this trivia.



SOUTHERN OHIO COVERED BRIDGE ASS'N. INC. 19,1967 ri. & Rep. Clarence E. miller House Offices Building Washington D.C. There is a story ( repy enclosed ) about an old cometery weat of Lancaster, Ohic - in Frainfield County. I cannot help but WONDER of it is FACT OR FICTION. If it is FACT, someone ought to call to the PRESIDENT'S attention the fact that he is sadly neglecting one ACRE. This would be a good place to start on the program of MAKING THE COUNTRY BEAUTIFUL. COUNTRY Henry F. Davidson 1008 URANA AVENUE Columbus, Ohio 43224 PY N BAINES JOHNSON LID.



America's Strangest Landmark

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ACRE

#### 1817

In 1817 Nathaniel Wilson, Jr., a pioneer of the Lancaster section, set aside a plot of ground to be used as a cemetery for his family. In order to preserve the graves from vandals and to prevent neglect in their care and upkeep, he deeded it to the President of the United States to be handed on to successive Presidents as long as the nation exists.

He inclosed the plot of ground with a high wall built of perfectly quarried stones of immense size. The work is the finest example of perfect stone masonry in Ohio. While the stones were being placed in position, Wilson, who was always present, blessed the work by reading from his old Scotch Bible. In the center of the plot he planted a young cedar of Lebanon, imported from Palestine.

He wanted the entire section surrounded by a fence to further insure its protection and, to make sure that material could be had for this purpose, he planted a field of locust trees near his home, which he also deeded to President Martin Van Buren in 1858.

This is the only cometery in America deeded to the President of the United States and stands as a monument to a grand old pioneer, whose love of life and tender regards for the dead was as outstanding as the stone-walled plot he left for posterity.





APR 13 1983

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President Ronald Reagan White House Washington, D.C.

#### Dear President:

One of my ancestors, Nathaniel Wilson, conveyed a private family cemetery near Lancaster, Ohio, to the President of the United States on October 24, 1817. I understand that until about 7 years ago this cemetery was accepted by each new President after inaugeration. My family would appreciate you continuing the tradition and accepting the cemetery.

The ground was subsequently enclosed by a high and strong stone wall, one of the earliest and best examples of this art in Ohio. No mortar was used to hold the stones together.

The stone wall was in turn enclosed by a good fence, and to provide for keeping it up Nathaniel planted a grove of locust trees near his home, and in his will of April 12, 1838, he gave the grove to President Martin Van Buren.

In some ways, 166 years seems like a long time, but when I read the family history in Nathaniel's Bible and follow each family member back in time, it seems such a short time ago.

Please accept the trust that Nathaniel felt for our country's President.

Yours truly,

Charles When

Charles Wilson 7420 W. 83 St. Los Angeles, CA 90045 Home phone (213) 670-0144 Work phone (213) 646-3986 Tues-Fri 8-5:30 usually.

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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

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WASHINGTON

May 6, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD C. MORRIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT/SECURITY NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Lipizzaner Stallion

Consistent with my memorandum to you of April 7, 1983, I am referring to you for appropriate handling a letter to B. Oglesby from Congressman Bill Green regarding a request from one of his constituents for information concerning the Lipizzaner stallion.

As mentioned in my earlier memorandum, in responding, please endeavor to make it abundantly clear that neither the President nor the United States hold title to the horse and decisions regarding it are not, therefore, the President's to make. I assume you have discussed this matter with the Austrians and that they are prepared to respond to inquiries you may refer to them.

Again, my thanks for your cooperation in handling this matter.

FFF:DBW/kl FFFielding DBWaller Subj. Chron.

WASHINGTON

April 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED FIELDING

·· · · · · · ·

FROM:

M. B. OGLESBY,

SUBJECT: LIPPANZZANER STALLION

Attached is correspondence we recently received from Congressman Bill Green (R-NY) inquiring about the circumstances behind the gift of the Lippanzzaner Stallion to President Reagan.

Your appropriate handling of this inquiry is appreciated.

15TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

BUBCOMMITTEES: RANKING MINORITY MEMBER MUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 20, 1983

WASHINGTON OFFICE

NEW YORK OFFICE GRAND CENTRAL POST OFFICE BUILDING 110 EAST 45TH STREET NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 (212) 825-4466

: 41722 Cu

M.B. Oglesby, Jr. Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs The White House 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear B.:

One of my constituents, Louise Lytle Patterson, has requested some information regarding the Lippanzzaner stallion presented by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce to President Reagan in November of 1982.

She would appreciate any details concerning the date and place of the presentation, the circumstances behind the gift, and the present location of the horse.

Please send any information to my office so that I can respond to Ms. Patterson's questions. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Brad Zodikoff in my officeat 225-2436.

With kind regards,

Si

Bill Green Member of Congress

BG:bz

WASHINGTON

GI Frage Z

December 2, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

Holiday Season Reminder on Gift Policy SUBJECT:

With the advent of another Holiday season, it is especially important for you to review White House policy regulating the receipt of gifts. This memorandum summarizes and supplements material contained in the Staff Manual. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this.

#### Gifts that may not be accepted

No member of the White House staff may accept a gift from a person who --

- o has or is seeking to do business with any part of the Executive Branch,
- o is involved in activities which are regulated by the Executive Branch,
- o has an interest which would be substantially affected by the staff member's performance of official duties.

If such a gift is received by a staff member either at the office, or at home, the staff member has the obligation to return it to the donor with the explanation that it cannot be accepted. A copy of the letter returning the gift should be retained in your files with a copy to this Office. If for some reason you feel you cannot return the gift (donor unknown, the address of donor unknown, or other) you should advise this Office. If, after analysis, it is confirmed that return is not possible, the gift should be turned over to the Counsel's Office for disposal, with an accompanying memorandum explaining the rationale for not returning the item. Of course, these prohibitions apply to your spouse and immediate household as well.

Gifts between Staff Members

Federal law expressly prohibits gifts from a subordinate employee to his supervisor or others in the office whose pay status is higher than the employee's.) This does not prohibit customary exchange of gifts of nominal value between co-workers, but any lavish gifts or gifts to superiors which are not part of a traditional exchange are prohibited.

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#### Gifts that may be accepted

Gifts from family and relatives may, of course, be accepted.

Gifts from friends may also be accepted, but only if it is clear that the motivation is personal and the circumstances are such that no appearance of conflict of interest is created. Thus, for example, if you have traditionally exchanged gifts with a neighbor, you may continue to do so even though he happens to be a lawyer with occasional cases involving the government or he is a banker subject to federal regulation. It would be imprudent to accept such a gift, on the other hand, if the neighbor has a specific interest in an issue which is under review in your particular office. While perhaps totally innocent, a gift in these latter circumstances might create the appearance of conflict of interest.

Unsolicited advertising and promotional materials of nominal value may be accepted even if they come from individuals or businesses having business with or regulated by the government. This only extends to such customary items as desk calendars, pens, pocket diaries, etc.; however, by way of example, this rule would not permit acceptance of a case of cognac, a piece of furniture, or other items of substantial value.

#### Reporting Requirements

In addition to the recordkeeping set forth above, those staff members required to file financial disclosure reports (SF 278) are reminded that they have an obligation to report certain gifts received from persons other than relatives. Any gift over \$100 in value must be reported. Also gifts over \$35 in value must be reported if the aggregate of such gifts received from the same source within a year totals over \$100. Thus, it would be prudent to make a record of all gifts valued over \$35 which you receive so that you can determine, at reporting time, whether there is a reporting requirement. The Gift Unit can supply forms for such use. Please note that the \$35 reporting limit is not related to the issue of whether a gift may be accepted. The propriety of accepting any gift must be determined without regard to its value, except as provided herein.

#### Gifts from Foreign Governments or Officials

The United States Constitution and a federal statute generally prohibit government officials from accepting gifts from foreign governments or from foreign multinational organizations. The following general guidelines obtain:

Gifts valued at under \$140 may be accepted and retained by the official, unless the acceptance would otherwise violate the regulations pertaining to domestic gifts. These gifts must be reported as any other gift.

Gifts that are valued at \$140 or more become the property of the United States. They should be turned over as soon as possible and within sixty (60) days to the White House Gift Unit for recording and the necessary reporting to the General Services Administration.

#### Gifts for the President or First Lady

Under no circumstances should a staff member accept such a gift intended for the President or the First Lady without first checking with this Office. Any member of the staff who receives a gift intended for the President or the First Lady should ensure that it goes through the security unit before entering the complex. It should then be immediately delivered to the White House Gift Unit so that it can be properly recorded and a decision made as to its disposition.

#### A Word of Caution

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It is an unfortunate, but necessary, reminder that staff members should be particularly cautious about gifts of consumables, and about packages delivered at home. The Secret Service makes it a practice to destroy consumables received at the White House unless both the donor and the source are personally well known. Likewise, all packages and letters received at the White House by mail or delivery are scanned to make sure they are not hazardous. If you receive a package at home from a source not personally known to you, please take it to Room 45 OEOB for scanning before opening. Under no circumstances should you bring it into the Executive Office/White House complex without such screening.

#### Additional Questions

This memorandum is necessarily summary and does not deal with all questions that may arise. If you are in doubt about the propriety of accepting any gift, please consult with the Counsel's Office.

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190652

WASHINGTON

December 2, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM:

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FRED F. FIELDING

SUBJECT: Holiday Season Reminder on Gift Policy

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## KARL H. MIKOLKA, BEREITER

P. O. Box 141 Wadsworth, IL 60083-0141 Tel. (312) 395-6708

CF-19184/ cm

N GI

Vec. 15, 1983

Dear der. Fieldung:

Thank you very much for auswening my letter of October 18, 1983.

of time permits I will direct purther inquiries to the Austrian

Embassy.

Luicerchy Kail livholka

105 666 55 6 5 58

#### WASHINGTON

December 8, 1983

Dear Mr. Mikolka:

Your October 18, 1983 letter to the President offering your services to train Maestoso Blanca has been referred to me for response.

Although your interest in the horse is appreciated, please be advised that neither the President nor the United States are its owners. Accordingly, decisions regarding the horse are not his to make. I suggest that you direct your inquiry to the Austrian Embassy.

Sincerely,

Orig. signed by bre

Fred F. Fielding Counsel to the President

Mr. Karl H. Mikolka, Bereiter P.O. Box 141 Wadlsworth, Illinois 60083

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## **CLASSIFICATION SECTION**

No. of Additional Correspondents:	Media:Individual	Codes: <u>4690</u> _	
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WASHINGTON

December 8, 1983

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Sincerely,

## Orig. signed by best

Fred F. Fielding Counsel to the President

Mr. Karl H. Mikolka, Bereiter P.O. Box 141 Wadsworth, Illinois 60083

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#### WASHINGTON

December 7, 1983

FOR:

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FRED F. FIELDING Rh

FROM: DAVID B. WALLER

SUBJECT: Lipizzaner Stallion

Although the attached letter regarding the Lipizzaner stallion is dated October 18, 1983, it was forwarded to me yesterday by Katherine Shepherd in the Correspondence Unit.

A proposed response is attached for your review and signature.

## 191841 ac

## KARL H. MIKOLKA, BEREITER

P. O. Box 141 Wadsworth, IL 60083-0141 Tel. (312) 395-6708

October 18, 1983

Dear Mr. President:

1

1.S'

Allow we to take a few moments of your time. I would like to discuss briefly your horse, Maestoso Blanca, which was given to you by the Spanish Riding Thool last November. As a former rider of this mistitute (1954-1968) I had recently the opportunity to ride M. Blanca, which at the moment is stabled at Tempel Farms, 12. where I am employed as a vidning master. This stallion is a fine equine athlet and deserves expert attention. Thauld you, Mr. President, wish that his having is continued in the

## KARL H. MIKOLKA, BEREITER

classical tradition, please inform a member of your shaff to get in touch with Tempel Farms Administration Center before houday, October 24, 1983. Our houses will leave then for Washington D.C. to attend the bashington International House Thoro.

Thank you for your time

Suicerely Your hickolka

Facus Administration Center:

312 244 53 30