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Last Updated: 8/12/2024

WHPF

July 31, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR EDWARD STONE

FROM REX SCOUTEN

SUBJECT: White House Preservation Fund Certificate

I have always been troubled with the wording on the attached certificate. I feel it is misleading and frankly not in line with the goals of the fund.

Would you consider a change? The wording indicated is only a suggestion. You, I am sure, can improve if you see a need.

WWP
August 31, 1981

Edward,

A very fine document!

You have addressed those issues that should be a concern to everyone associated with the effort.

Please note my comments on the clipped pages -- very minor.

Sincerely,

Rex W. Scouten
Chief Usher

Mr. Edward Stone
White House Preservation
Fund
740 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

WHPF

The White House Preservation Fund

Board of Trustees

Mrs. George Abbott
Mrs. Walter Annenberg
Mr. William Milfred Batten
Mr. Edwin Bergman
Mr. Allan Carr
Mr. Norman B. Champ, Jr.
Mrs. Thurmond Clarke
Mrs. Earle M. Craig, Jr.
Mrs. Charles Engelhard
Mr. James H. Evans
Mr. William H. G. FitzGerald
Mr. Bob Fomon
Mrs. W. H. Krome George
Mr. Peter Hannaford
The Honorable George Hartzog, Jr.
Mrs. Jess Hay
Mrs. Albert Hill
Mrs. James Stewart Hooker
Mrs. Earle Jorgensen
Mrs. John Kluge
Mr. Richard Manoogian
Mr. Bill Mead
Mrs. W. Barnabas McHenry
Mrs. William McMurtrie
Baroness Sandra di Portanova
Mrs. Raymond Rossi, III
Mrs. Richard Scaife
Mrs. Bruce Sundlun
Mr. Marvin Traub

The Asking Price

White House Wants Cash From Fund Members

By Elisabeth Bumiller

The White House Preservation Fund, a money-raising group founded under President Carter, has adopted a new "guideline" that requires its trustees to contribute or raise \$250,000 each as a requisite for membership. At least one trustee has already resigned because of the quarter-million-dollar requirement, and several others were clearly startled by the development.

"I'm astonished," said Joy Sundlun, a wealthy Washington socialite. "I have never been on any board where I was required to give a specific amount of money. If, in fact, this is true, I'd resign."

The trustee who did resign is Penne Korth, the former co-vice chair of the Kennedy Center symphony concert during Ronald Reagan's inaugural week. "That's quite a hefty figure," she said yesterday. "It makes one go a little pale."

The decision was made by the preservation fund's five-member executive committee at the beginning of this month. It was to be announced at a full board meeting on April 22 by acting chairman William H.G. Fitzgerald. The meeting was postponed and, consequently, many of the 29 board members were unaware of the guideline until a reporter's phone call.

"You kind of take my breath away," said George Hartzog Jr., a trustee and a lawyer who helped incorporate the fund three years ago. "It sounds a little strange to me."

Fitzgerald explained that the decision was reached because the Reagan administration "didn't see much progress being made." The fund, which the Carters helped inaugurate

What Price Membership?

PRESERVATION, From B1

with a \$125-a-head fund-raiser in April 1980, has a goal of \$25 million. Its balance at the end of 1981 was \$486,270.

Its mission is to work with the White House Historical Association and the Committee for the Preservation of the White House to acquire artwork and antiques for the White House state floors. It also hopes to spend \$500,000 annually for White House maintenance.

Edward Stone, the fund's executive director, said that the \$250,000 was "really not a hard and fast thing that says 'You do, or you're not in.' It's just to give some people an idea of what is expected—and the seriousness of the effort."

The executive committee that made the decision includes Harriet Deutsch, a wealthy Reagan friend from California; Richard Manoogian, the president and director of the Masco Corp. of Michigan; Jean George, the wife of the chairman of the board of the Alcoa Corp.; James Evans, the chief executive officer of the Union Pacific Corp.; and Fitzgerald, the former chairman of the inaugural and former vice chairman of Financial General Bankshares Inc. in the District.

Fitzgerald said the White House had no part in the decision. "The committee discussed this, and we said, 'What we've got to do is commit.' That was the process."

Many of the trustees, particularly the newer ones, are either well-to-do Reagan friends from California, such as Marion Jorgensen and former U.S. protocol chief Lee Annenberg, or socialites, such as Baroness Sandra di Portanova, the international jet-setter who lives at both Claridge's in London and the Hotel de Paris in Monte Carlo. She occasionally takes day-trips for shopping from London to Paris in her husband's plane.

Other trustees who have been board members for some time include Marvin Traub, the chairman

of the board of Bloomingdale's; Allan Carr, the independent film producer; William Batten, chairman of the board of the New York Stock Exchange; Jane Engelhard, chairman of the board of Engelhard-Hanovia; and Bill O. Mead, chairman and chief executive officer of Campbell-Taggart, Inc. of Texas.

Yesterday, Stone said he was still informing many trustees of the new guideline. "Frankly, it's a very personal set of calls," he said.

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

OCT 25 1984

To: Secretary

Through: **Acting** Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

From: **ACTING** Director, National Park Service

Subject: Charter renewal - Advisory Committee for the Preservation of the White House

Issue: Shall the Presidentially established Advisory Committee for the Preservation of the White House continue?

Discussion: Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order Number 11145, as amended, of September 28, 1984, this Advisory Committee has been continued until September 30, 1985, unless terminated at a prior date by appropriate Executive Order. Attached for your signature is a renewal charter for the Committee for the Preservation of the White House. This is a Presidentially established committee for which the National Park Service has administrative responsibility. The signed charter may be returned to the National Park Service. At that time, copies will be filed with the appropriate Congressional Committees, and Library of Congress as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The charter filing date will be filled in at this time.

Options:

1. Sign the charter.
2. Do not sign the charter.

Recommendation: We recommend Option 1.

/s/ Mary Lou Grier

Attachment

Prepared by: Barbara A. Brown
ent: 343-2012

cc: **FR**
S-Viv DeJesi
WCP, Attn: Betty Roberts w/enc.
750-BBROWN w/enc.

FRV:BBROWN:kl:10/22/84:343-2012

M.D. 11/4/85
cy. Mr. Scouter
Mr. Frick
W. H. Preser
WHPresen
(Sgd) J. Craig Potter
OCT 30 1984

CHARTER

COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE

1. The official designation of the committee is the Committee for the Preservation of the White House.
2. The purpose of the committee is to advise the President of the United States and the Director of the National Park Service in regard to the maintenance of the White House as a public monument. The committee makes recommendations concerning articles of furniture, fixtures, and decorative objects for the public rooms best suited to enhance the historic and artistic values of the White House.
3. In view of the goals and purpose of the committee, it will be expected to continue for the foreseeable future. However, its continuation will be subject to biennial review and renewal as required by section 14 of Public Law 92-463, as well as an appropriate Executive Order to extend its life beyond September 30, 1985.
4. The committee files its reports and minutes with the President of the United States.
5. Support for the committee is provided by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.
6. The duties of the committee are solely advisory and are as stated in paragraph 2 above.
7. The estimated annual operating cost and man-years of staff support for the committee are negligible.
8. The committee formally meets as necessary.
9. The committee will terminate on September 30, 1985, unless terminated at a prior date by appropriate Executive Order.
10. The committee is composed of the Director of the National Park Service, the Curator of the White House, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, the Director of the National Gallery of Art, the Chief Usher of the White House, and so many other members as the President may from time to time appoint.

The Director of the National Park Service serves as chairman and designates an employee of the Park Service to act as Executive Secretary of the Committee.

11. Establishment of the committee was authorized by Executive Order No. 11145 of March 7, 1964, as amended by Executive Order No. 11565 of October 13, 1970, and continued by subsequent Executive Orders.

William Clark

Secretary of the Interior

Date Signed: _____

Date Charter Filed: _____

May 17, 1985

WILLIAM FITZGERALD

Present Chairman of White House Preservation Fund (WHPF).

Very rich Republican. No known arts expertise.

EDWARD STONE

Present Director of WHPF.

PETER HANNAFORD

Former partner of Michael Deaver.

CLEM CONGER

White House/State Department Curator.

MRS. KROME GEORGE

Present President of WHPF. No known arts expertise.

MR. TAUBMAN

President of Bloomingdales

MRS. KLUGE

Wife of President Metro Media. English. Interested in architecture.

MRS. RITA CLEMENTS

Wife of former Governor of Texas.

BARONESS di PORTANOVA

Friend of Mrs. Reagan. Texan. Money.

VERNON JORDAN

Head of Urban League.

ROGER CLARK

Local lawyer. Give WHPF legal advice.

MR. BATTEN

Retired. Former Chairman of New York Stock Exchange.

MRS. MCHENRY

Husband heads Lila Wallace Foundation.

MRS. SCAIFE

Member of the Melon family. From Pittsburgh.

MRS. HILL

Wealthy Texas, sister of Bunker Hunt

MRS. ABBOTT

Husband in textile industry. Name submitted by Helene vonDamm on behalf of Mrs. Reagan.

MR. FAOMON

E. F. Hutton. Name submitted by Helene vonDamm on behalf of Mrs. Reagan.

MRS. HAY

Husband. Rich mortgage broker from Dallas. Prime interest in mental health. A democrat.

MRS. EARL CRAIG

Midland Texas. Very rich. Personal friends of Vice President and Mrs. Bush. Has raised the money for refurnishing the Vice President's residence.

MRS. GEORGE KAUFMAN

They are rich. Very active Virginia Republicans. Have fine collection of 18th Century furniture.

May 17, 1985

MR. ROBERT McNEIL

Member of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House (CPWH) since 1975. Very active and very generous. Presented to you the Bierstat in Red Room, worth at that time around \$750,000

MRS. DuPONT COPELAND

Very active with DuPont's "Winterthur." Member of the CPWH since 1970. Certainly an expert on American furnishings

MRS. THURMONT CLARKE

California, Irvine Ranch, Member CPWH since 1970. Has been seriously ill for several years.

MRS. CHARLES (JANE) ENGELHARD

Member of Mrs. Kennedy's Fine Arts Committee and CPWH since its inception.

RICHARD MANOOGIAN

Member of CPWH since 1978. Very rich Detroitter, art collector and a most generous gentleman.

JANET HOOKER (ANNENBERG)

Member of CPWH since 1970.

GEORGE HARTZOG

Former Director of the National Park Service and Chairman of CPWH. A WHHA Board member representative on the CPWH Board.

MRS. JOY SUNDLUN

Member of WHHA Board and represents WHHA on the CPWH Board

COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE

DESIGNATED MEMBERS

WILLIAM MOTT, Chairman
Director of the National Park Service

J. CARTER BROWN
Director, National Gallery of Art
Chairman, Commission on Fine Arts

ROBERT ADAMS
Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution

CLEMENT CONGER
Curator, White House

REX SCOUTEN
Chief Usher, White House

JAMES McDANIEL, Executive Secretary
National Park Service

PROPOSED MEMBERS

MR. ROBERT McNEIL

MRS. CHARLES ENGELHARD

MRS. DuPONT COPELAND

MR. RICHARD MANOOGIAN

(MRS. JANET HOOKER) ??

MR. TED GRABER

MRS. KROME GEORGE

MRS. GEORGE KAUFMAN

MRS. EARL CRAIG

- 27 Present WHPF Board Members
- 8 Appointed to CPWH
McNeil, Engelhard, Copeland, Manoogian,
Hooker, George, Kaufman, Craig
- 2 Presently WHHA Board
Hartzog and Sundlun
- 1 No consideration due to illness
Mrs. Clarke
- 5 No apparent reason for either Board
Fitzgerald, Stone, Clark, Hannaford, Jordan
- 5 No known expertise in decorative arts
Taubman, Batten, Clements, Hill, Hay
- 6 Any reason to consider for either?
Abbott, Faomon, Baroness di Portanova,
Mrs. Scaife, Mrs. McHenry, Mrs. Kluge

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 9, 1985

11/14 WH PF
Fig I Here
is the incorporation
we asked for
Weeks ago.
John

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES S. ROSEBUSH
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Reorganization of White House
Preservation and Fundraising Organizations

As requested in your recent meeting with David Waller and Hugh Hewitt of my staff, we have researched the laws of the District of Columbia regarding the steps that would be necessary to implement your proposed plan for reorganizing the existing White House preservation and fundraising organizations -- the White House Historical Association ("the Association"), the White House Preservation Fund ("the Fund"), and the Committee for the Preservation of the White House ("the Committee"). The plan, as we understand it, would be to merge the Association and the Fund. In addition, the Committee would be revitalized, and some members of the Fund's Board would be placed on it.

The Association and the Fund are, as you know, corporations. Neither, we are advised, has members. Under those circumstances, the law requires that the written consent of the Board of Directors of both the Association and the Fund be obtained for any reorganization of those entities.

Specifically, the following steps would have to be taken:

1. Section 29-540 of Title 29 of the District of Columbia Code requires that the Board of Directors of both the Association and the Fund approve a plan of merger. (The board of the Fund is actually called the "Board of Trustees.") A majority vote of both Boards is required to approve a plan of merger. The plan of merger must set forth at least the following:

- a. the names of the corporations proposing to merge and the name of the corporation into which they propose to merge. The latter is referred to as the "surviving corporation;"
- b. the terms and conditions of the proposed merger;
- c. a statement of any changes in the Articles of Incorporation of the surviving corporation to be effected by the merger.

d. such other provisions with respect to the proposed merger as are deemed necessary or desirable.

2. Section 29-543 of the Code requires that, upon approval of a plan of merger by the Boards, articles of merger be executed in duplicate by the corporations by their President or Vice President. The corporate seal of the corporation is to be affixed and attested to by the corporation's secretary. The articles of merger must include (1) the plan of merger, and (2) a statement that the merging corporation has no members, the date of the meeting of the board at which the plan was approved, and a statement of the fact that such plan received the vote of a majority of the directors in office.

3. Duplicate originals of the articles of merger are then to be delivered to the Mayor of the District of Columbia who reviews the articles for compliance with the Act. If the articles are approved, the Mayor issues a Certificate of Merger, upon which the merger becomes effective.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 10, 1985

WHPF

Mrs. Reagan:

I hope that I properly presented the "White House" position in reference to the Preservation Fund.

Rex W. Scouten
Chief Usher

Attachment

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon. William H. G. Fitzgerald
FROM: George B. Hartzog, Jr.
SUBJECT: White House Preservation Fund

As you requested I met with Mr. Scouten, Chief Usher of The White House, on June 28, 1985, to discuss the suggestion reported to the Board by Mrs. George, namely: The White House Preservation Fund as an entity should be dissolved.


In preparation for my meeting I drafted the attached statement in an attempt to provide a context as to where we are, how we fit with other organizations involved in White House preservation and interpretive programs, and, a suggested procedure for liaison with the White House.

Mr. Scouten confirmed in all essential respects the report of Mrs. George.

Without attribution -- I asked for none and he volunteered none -- he made the following points:

1. The Fund has been in existence since 1979. It has raised two million dollars plus. It has spent more than sixty (60%) percent of the funds raised, leaving a balance on hand of approximately one-third (1/3) of all money raised. With this record, it has lost its credibility as a fund-raising organization equal to the task of raising an Endowment of twenty-five million dollars or more.

2. The Fund from the outset "got off on the wrong foot" and has not righted itself. What is needed is a small group (3 to 5) to raise funds from foundations, corporations and individuals on a one-to-one basis, quietly. An expansive program, with full-time staff and media publicity cannot be identified

 7/8/85

He mentioned, in passing, that a low-key, one-on-one effort, perhaps, could be supported with a small event (lunch or dinner) for 4 to 6 at a time at the White House hosted, privately, by the First Family.

3. The Fund was not intended as an acquisition body. That is the function jointly of the Curator and the Chief Usher (for the First Family and the Committee for the Preservation of the White House). The recent publicity, unknown to Mr. Scouten or the First Lady, until it appeared in the press, re: the Madison decanter (its high price) and the Sloan's promotion of "\$1.00 per head" were an embarrassment.

4. He is dubious that the present Board would re-organize itself to proceed quietly, as a small group, on a one-to-one basis devoid of full-time vested staff, including the hype and direction of the Curator -- my assessment of what was said and unsaid.

5. He is fully aware of the inability of the White House to bring about the dissolution of the Fund as a privately chartered corporation. Our Board may resist dissolution. If so, we have stalemate -- a not too happy situation, but one which the Administration is prepared to "live with" if need be.

Conclusion

Without an extraordinary change in attitude, organization and process it is unlikely that the relationship of the Fund to the White House will be repaired, shortly.

The Fund now occupies Government offices. In the event of a stalemate with the Administration, the Fund could be dispossessed of its quarters.

George H. H. 7/8/85

THE WHITE HOUSE PRESERVATION FUND

A Permanent Endowment Trust

September 17, 1985

Fred F. Fielding, Esq.
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

WHPF

Dear Mr. Fielding:

I would like to thank you and also your associates, Messrs. Waller and Rosebush, for the time which you spent with us his last Monday, and for your most courteous hearing of our ideas.

I might say, as an aside, that since first becoming involved with the White House Preservation Fund I have been somewhat bemused by the seemingly endless series of difficulties which appear to frustrate what I, perhaps naively, perceived as such a simple objective: to maintain and enhance the character of the public rooms of the White House as the best possible gallery of 18th and 19th century decorative arts for the vast numbers of visitors, many of them impressionable young people, from our own country and from abroad. At one low point I imagined Machiavellian forces at work; after our meeting last Monday I conclude that nothing more than a lack of clear and simple communication has been involved.

I would like to briefly summarize what I heard during our discussion, without implying any commitment on your, or Mr. Rosebush's part:

You suggested that the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, presently "asleep", be re-activated, perhaps along the lines of its predecessor, the "Fine Arts Committee", and that the Preservation Fund group be merged with the White House Historical Association.

Mr. Rosebush advised us that Mrs. Reagan, understandably sensitive to the unwarranted criticism which she received several years ago in connection with expenditures for the maintenance of the White House, feels that the long record of the Association, as a non-partisan educational institution under the direction of Dr. Payne, makes it an ideal "home" for the Fund.

The above arrangement would not appear to be illogical, until one looks more closely at the long-term problem of raising and maintaining a rather impressive permanent endowment fund.

Firstly, Dr. Payne, and Mr. Bernie Meyer, pointed out that the Association is essentially an educational program intended to enhance the experience of actually visiting the White House. While it is able to support the White House with relatively modest profits from the sale

Fred F. Fielding, Esq.
September 17, 1985
Page Two

of its books, it has no independent fund raising capabilities and does not wish to assume that role. As you know, Dr. Payne's view of this has been quite consistent over the years.

Secondly, the Fund is faced with a rather unique problem. Unlike a college or university, there is no well-defined group of loyal alumni upon which the White House can call. Nor can such a loyal group be created simply by "appointment". However, we have discovered, over recent years, that this group of loyal alumni does in fact exist, but that the members of this group have to be identified, one by one.

There is no simple way to classify those who have contributed to the Fund in recent years, or who are available to help raise the \$ 20 or \$ 25 million which seems to be required as a permanent endowment. They are generally individuals, or families, who are interested in the classical arts, who have been donors to major museums, or who are in a position to persuade others of the obvious worthiness of the White House as a first-class museum, and not as an institution dependent on loans and sometimes less than appropriate gifts.

Over time the Trustees of the Fund, and their successors, must develop a sense of camaraderie and dedication to the project which will make them feel that they are working, as a group, for a rather unique cause, which they truly are. This is not a one-time job for a P.R. program, or for a professional fund-raising organization.

Going back to the matter of the re-activation of the Committee, we feel, as we expressed to you, that the committee should be re-appointed as either the "Fine Arts Committee of the White House", or the "Decorative Arts Committee of the White House". The Committee should be composed of persons drawn from a list of distinguished experts in the various special fields of the arts which are displayed in the White House. The Curator, and/or the Director of the National Gallery, should make recommendations for consideration by the President. In the future, either the Curator or the Director of the National Gallery might appropriately chair the Committee with the First Lady as Honorary Chairman and hopefully an active member.

This Committee should be the agency of curatorial selection and acquisition. We feel that no member of the Fund, or the Association, should be a member of the Committee, although the heads of these two groups should be ex officio members of the Committee for communication purposes. It would also be desirable for Trustees of the Fund to meet on a regular basis with the Committee in order to maintain a high level of interest within the Preservation Fund regarding the Committee's long range program of acquisitions.

Fred F. Fielding, Esq.
September 17, 1985
Page Three


One additional thought about the position of Curator. Without the proper functioning of all three committees and a serious commitment to making the White House a truly representative and national museum, it will be very difficult in the future to attract a distinguished curator.

We also mentioned several minor matters. Under the law of today, the White House can only lend to the Smithsonian. This seems to be needlessly restrictive. Also, if it accepts a work of art it cannot sell it. It would be nice to be able to accept a Monet, which in turn could be sold to purchase a badly needed work by Thomas Eakins, Eastman Johnson, or Frederick Church, all of whom are becoming terribly expensive.

Again, Mr. Fielding, we feel our meeting was most helpful. We also believe that these thoughts could lead to a structure which would clearly insulate Mr. and Mrs. Reagan, and their successors, from any opportunity for petty, politically based, criticism.

Since our discussion last Monday, we have postponed our Fall Board meeting from September 24th and have rescheduled it for November 19th and 20th. Hopefully by that time we will be able to present to our Trustees a clearly defined program for the future.

Sincerely,


Jean M. George
(Mrs. W. H. Krome George)

cc: Mr. James Rosebush
Roger Clark, Esq.
Dr. Melvin Payne
Mr. William H. G. FitzGerald

WHKG:st

(Dictated But Not Read)