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**Collection:** Roberts, John G.: Files  
**Folder Title:** JGR/Presidential Portrait  
**Box:** 38

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 23, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: Daniel Greene Inquiry Concerning Portraits  
of the President and Mrs. Reagan

Senator Laxalt forwarded to Michael Deaver an inquiry from portrait artist Daniel Greene, and Deaver has asked us to respond directly to Greene on behalf of Senator Laxalt. Greene did Laxalt's portrait as Governor of Utah, and has offered to paint the President and Mrs. Reagan "entirely on speculation at no cost or obligation to anyone." Greene requests two separate sittings. He hopes the portraits would be acceptable and be purchased as the official portraits.

White House Curator Clem Conger advises that the Reagans have not yet decided when their official portraits will be done. Once a First Couple decides to begin portrait planning, the Curator normally reviews several portfolios with the Couple, who then select an artist. Conger states that the idea of an artist doing a portrait "entirely on speculation" is not at all new, and that he has frequently refused sittings to other artists with similar proposals in the past.

I recommend advising Greene that portrait planning has not yet begun, that we cannot accept his offer to paint the Reagans "on speculation" since so many such requests are received and routinely denied, and that we have forwarded his portfolio material to Conger.

Attached are a draft letter to Greene, a letter to Laxalt advising him of this disposition, a memorandum to Conger forwarding Greene's materials, and a memorandum to Deaver with copies of the foregoing.

Attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL K. DEEVER  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING <sup>Orig. signed by FFF</sup>  
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Letter from Senator Laxalt Concerning  
Portrait Artist Daniel Greene

You forwarded the above-referenced letter to this office,  
for our direct reply on behalf of Senator Laxalt. I attach  
for your information copies of our replies to Mr. Greene and  
to Senator Laxalt.

Attachments

FFF:JGR:aw 3/15/83

cc: FFFielding  
JGRoberts  
Subj.  
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1983

Dear Paul:

Mike Deaver forwarded your inquiry concerning the artist Daniel Greene to me. As you might imagine, the Reagans receive numerous requests to sit for portraits on speculation. As a result, they have had to adopt a policy of declining all such requests, even when they come from such a distinguished artist as Mr. Greene.

I have written to Mr. Greene advising him of this policy, and am enclosing a copy of that letter for your information.

Sincerely,

Orig. signed by FFF

Fred F. Fielding  
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Paul Laxalt  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Enclosure

FFF:JGR:aw 3/15/83

cc: FFFielding  
JGRoberts  
Subj.  
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1983

Dear Mr. Greene:

Senator Laxalt has advised the White House of your gracious proposal to paint portraits of the President and Mrs. Reagan on terms, by your description, of "speculation."

Senator Laxalt has advised us that in his opinion your portraits would be outstanding. The President and Mrs. Reagan, however, receive numerous requests to sit for portraits. For reasons I am certain you can appreciate, it has been necessary for them to adopt the policy of declining such requests. Out of fairness, it is necessary to adhere to this policy in responding to your proposal. Please be assured that this is in no way a reflection on your work.

Thank you for your generous proposal. I trust you will understand the reasons it cannot be accepted.

Sincerely,

Orig. signed by FFF

Fred F. Fielding  
Counsel to the President

Mr. Daniel E. Greene  
Daniel Greene, N.A.  
Route 116  
North Salem, New York 10560

FFF:JGR:aw 3/15/83

cc: FFFielding  
JGRoberts  
Subj.  
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date 3.10.83

Suspense Date \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR: John

FROM: **DIANNA G. HOLLAND**

**ACTION**

- Approved
- Please handle/review
- For your information
- For your recommendation
- For the files
- Please see me
- Please prepare response for \_\_\_\_\_ signature
- As we discussed
- Return to me for filing

**COMMENT**

FFF does not want to  
send to Conger, so letter  
to Khalil + and memo to  
Deaver need to be changed.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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Daniel Greene, N.A.  
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North Salem, New York 10560

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The Honorable Paul Laxalt  
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1983

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ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING  
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Letter from Senator Laxalt Concerning  
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for your information copies of our replies to Mr. Greene and  
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Subj.  
Chron

**WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

PRO14-11

- O - OUTGOING
  - H - INTERNAL
  - I - INCOMING
- Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1

Name of Correspondent: Paul Lafalt

MI Mail Report      User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Portraits by Daniel E. Greene

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>W Holland</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>83,02,07</u>			<u>1 1</u>
<u>WAT18</u>		<u>D</u>	<u>83,02,07</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>83,02,17</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

- ACTION CODES:**
- A - Appropriate Action
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  - D - Draft Response
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  - I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
  - R - Direct Reply w/Copy
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- A - Answered
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  - S - Suspended
- FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:**
- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
  - Code = "A"
  - Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO: *Fred Fielding*

FROM: MICHAEL K. DEAVER  
Assistant to the President  
Deputy Chief of Staff

Information

Action

*Please respond  
on behalf of Sen. LaFalce*

*Send cc to Shirley Moore.*

*FD*

## United States Senate

### MEMORANDUM

Shirley:

As we discussed, here's the material on the portrait artist, Daniel Greene.

I did make two Xerox copies of his work to give Mr. Deaver an idea of what he has done.

We have his complete portfolio here in the office which I would be happy to have delivered if he would like to look at it.

Thanks.

Eileen

PAUL LAXALT  
NEVADA



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 31, 1983

123159  
*ll*

Dear Mike:

Daniel Greene did my official portrait as Governor. He is absolutely "tops."

Would the Reagans be interested in exploring this kind of proposal? If they are not, I'd rather just level with Dan.

Will you please advise me accordingly?

Sincerely,

PAUL LAXALT  
U. S. SENATOR

Honorable Michael K. Deaver  
Assistant to the President and  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

PL/ed

Enclosures

ates Senate

ANDUM

sed, here's the  
the portrait  
el Greene.

wo Xerox copies  
to give Mr. Deaver  
nat he has done.

complete portfolio  
office which I  
py to have delivered  
like to look at it.

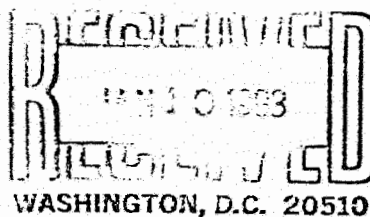
# DANIEL GREENE N.A.

RTE. 116

1983 JAN - 0 11 0 54  
NORTH SALEM, N.Y. 10560

January 7, 1983  
SENATOR PAUL LAXALT

Senator Paul Laxalt  
315 Russel Building  
Constitution and Delaware  
Washington, DC



Dear Paul,

It was very pleasant meeting with you after all these years. I didn't have an opportunity during our brief talk to compliment you on your continuous successes. I read and hear marvelous things about you. The arduous ordeal of posing for your portrait must have been good preparation for public life!

The purpose of this letter is twofold; to send you my newly printed bibliography and price list which I hope you will include with my portrait portfolio and to put in writing my proposal to you and the President and Mrs. Reagan. I would like very much to paint portraits of the President and Mrs. Reagan entirely on speculation at no cost or obligation to anyone. If the Reagans would graciously consent to give me 45 minutes to an hour each in order to photograph them, I would then paint the portraits in my New York studio and upon their completion would request an additional short time for a final sitting. The photographs and the sitting can be done in Washington or any location that is convenient to the Reagans. I intend to make these paintings the most outstanding portraits I have ever done. If the portraits are entirely to the Reagan's satisfaction, I would be hopeful that they would then become the official White House portraits and the monies normally allocated could then be used towards their purchase. Should this budget be insufficient, I would be hopeful that interested private citizens might contribute the difference. The prices for my portraits are amongst the highest in the country.

As I mentioned at our meeting, I have previously been selected for White House portraits but, unfortunately, they didn't materialize. Normally I would let events regarding Presidential portraits again take their natural course; it is not my usual policy to do portraits on speculation or to solicit commissions. Because of my admiration for the Reagans, and your gracious willingness to show them examples of my work, I am hoping that this initiative will come to a successful result.

Again I greatly appreciate your agreeing to show my work. If there is any way I may be of service to you or Mrs. Laxalt, I would be most pleased if you would let me know. Should there be any questions regarding this project, please don't hesitate to call.

Thank you for your efforts.



Daniel E. Greene

DEG/jce

P.S. ~~It seemed to me that the portrait I did of you was conspicuous by its absence in my portfolio. I no longer have any colored photographs of it and the photographer that had the negative died some years ago. If you have any suggestions as to how I can obtain 8 x 10 color and black and white prints, I would be most appreciative.~~









MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD A. HAUSER

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: Sculpture of the President

Mr. Deaver's office, apparently through Bill Sittmann, has asked for our views on a proposal from Werner Gundlach to have the sculptor Arno Breker execute a sculpture of the President. According to Gundlach, Breker -- 83 years old -- is Europe's greatest living sculptor in the classic tradition. Gundlach proposes to have a private citizen commission the work, and has taken the extraordinary liberty of writing Justin Dart and Norton Simon in a not-too-subtle effort to enlist their support.

There would be no legal bar to the President agreeing to sit for a sculpture commissioned by private citizens. The sculpture would become the property of whomever commissioned it. It seems obvious to me, however, that it would be extremely unwise for the President to agree to such an arrangement. Sitting for a sculpture strikes me as the epitome of conceit and majesty, hardly the image we want to portray. Commissioning the work by wealthy cronies lends support to the charges of a rich man's Presidency, and the American arts community could well object to the importation of a foreigner to execute the work. I have drafted a memorandum to Sittmann noting these concerns. Since the question is not a legal one, I did not consider it appropriate for our office to respond directly to Gundlach.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 6, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. SITTMANN  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD A. HAUSER *RAH*  
DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Sculpture of the President

Your office has asked for our views on Werner Gundlach's proposal to have private citizens commission a sculpture of the President, to be executed by European sculptor Arno Breker. There is no legal bar to such a proposal. The completed sculpture would become the property of whomever commissioned it.

I think you will concur, however, that it would be inappropriate and impolitic for the President to agree to such an arrangement. As you know, the President receives many requests to sit for portraits, and it would certainly be difficult to distinguish the various requests should we depart from the policy of uniformly declining them. Sitting for a sculpture commissioned by friends may also raise concerns with respect to the public image the President wishes to convey. Having the sculpture executed by a foreigner -- after turning down so many requests from Americans -- would be perceived as a slight by the American artistic community. In sum, we strongly recommend against encouraging Mr. Gundlach in his efforts, although there is no legal bar to them.

RAH:JGR:aw 7/6/83

cc: RAHauser  
JGRoberts  
Subj.  
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 6, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. SITTMANN  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

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DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

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RAH:JGR:aw 7/6/83

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Subj.  
Chron

GT002

**WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

*Abstracts*

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING  
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1

Name of Correspondent: Werner Gundlach

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Sculpture of the President by Arno Breker (letter to Anne Higgins)

ROUTE TO:	ACTION	DISPOSITION
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CWH011</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8310512</u> <sup>WS</sup>
<u>CWAT18</u>	Referral Note: <u>D</u>	<u>8310512</u> <sup>WS</sup>
	Referral Note:	<u>S</u> <u>8310610</u> <sup>WS</sup>
		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>
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		<u>1 1</u>
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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Mr. Fielding:

MKD would like your input on  
the attached.

Thanks.

**DONNA L. BLUME**



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date:

5-24-83

To:

Pat Boyle

Does Mr. Tanager  
want to encourage  
this?

Bill

✓ this out  
with 77



ANNE HIGGINS  
Special Assistant to the  
President and Director  
of Correspondence  
Room 94, x7610

Werner Gundlach

Ms. Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

14496000

May 20, 1983

Dear Ms. Higgins,

Arno Breker

you were kind to write to me on behalf of Mrs. Reagan with respect to my efforts to have Arno Breker create a sculpture of the President.

It would seem to me that the proper procedure would be to have a private citizen commission the artist, and that the work would then be placed in a private place, at least while Mr. Ronald Reagan holds the office of President.

My principal concern is to make happen the live encounter of the two men while Arno Breker is still able to travel and to come to a sitting in the White House; the result would certainly be a sculpture of lasting significance.

Naturally, the artist can not be commissioned by the President himself; but I would appreciate any suggestion Mrs. Reagan might have as to whom I should approach to sponsor this endeavour. I just wrote to Mr. Norton Simon and to Mr. Justin Dart and enclose copies for your reference.

If you have any thoughts in this direction, please be so kind to call me.

With my best wishes and kind regards,

yours sincerely,

