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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 9, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: Restoration of Reagan Home
in Dixon, Illinois

An acquaintance of the President involved in the restoration of the Dixon home, Bill Thompson, has written the President, enclosing an itemized cost estimate for restoration work. In his letter Thompson states that with "a note or a telephone call to some of your friends in California, Texas or elsewhere -- maybe Bob Hope, Sinatra, Pat Boone, etc. -- that possibly enough cash could be raised to finish the projects that are important at this time . . ." Osborne has corresponded with Thompson on the President's behalf frequently in the past, and would like to advise him that it would be inappropriate for the President to accede to his request, but wanted to check with our office first.

Osborne is of course correct that it would not be appropriate for the President to do what Thompson suggests. Last year the Ronald Reagan Home Preservation Foundation met with the President, and the Chairman of the group later asked for photographs of the meeting to use in fundraising. You sent the photographs, but with a caveat that they "not be used in a way that suggests that either the White House or the President personally is asking for contributions."

I have prepared a memorandum for your signature to Osborne, agreeing with the substance of her proposed response. I think Osborne should do the response, since she has corresponded with Thompson in the past.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 9, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR KATHY OSBORNE

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING 15/

SUBJECT: Restoration of Reagan Home
in Dixon, Illinois

You have asked for our advice concerning a response to Mr. Bill Thompson, an acquaintance of the President who is involved in efforts to restore the Dixon home. Mr. Thompson suggested that the President contact friends of his to raise some \$250,000 for the restoration.

You are of course correct that it would be inappropriate for the President to accede to Mr. Thompson's request. Last fall the President met with officials of the Ronald Reagan Home Preservation Foundation, and when those individuals requested photographs to be used in fundraising, I sent the photographs but admonished that they "not be used in a way that suggests that either the White House or the President personally is asking for contributions." I would simply advise Mr. Thompson that it would be inappropriate for the President to become involved in raising funds for the restoration, either publicly or privately.

FFF:JGR:aw 6/9/83

cc: FFFielding
JGRoberts
Subj.
Chron

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

Perk - Roberts

- O - OUTGOING**
- I - INTERNAL**
- I - INCOMING**

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 04/1/1

Name of Correspondent: Kathy Osborne

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Restoration of Reagan Home in
Dixon, Illinois

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>WH011</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>83106108</u>			<u>1 1</u>
<u>CVAT 18</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>83106108</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>83106110</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- 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

June 7, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: FRED FIELDING
FROM: KATHY OSBORNE *Kathy*
SUBJECT: RESTORATION OF REAGAN HOME IN DIXON, ILLINOIS

One of the President's old acquaintances is involved in the restoration of the Reagan home (Mr. Bill Thompson), and has written often asking him many questions regarding location of rooms, things in the home, etc.

Mr. Thompson has recently sent in a copy of a letter to him from Mr. Jim Hickey who is the Lincoln Curator -- and very involved in the restoration of the home. Basically, Mr. Hickey and Mr. Thompson suggest the President contact some of his wealthy friends to see if they would donate \$250,000 to complete the home.

I would like to write back to Mr. Thompson advising him that it is totally inappropriate for the President to do this, however, I want to see if anyone in your office has been involved in this and if this is the response I should give them. I don't want to bother the President with all of this because I have been writing to Mr. Thompson (over RR's signature) because he continually asks the President to autograph about a dozen items with every letter.

Please advise if you have any information regarding the restoration that I am not aware of and if you agree that I should write Mr. Thompson that although RR is concerned, he is not able to get involved.

Thanks.

for *Don* *John Vicky* *feels that this page would be better if it was in*
would like to see completed this year
Bill

PRESIDENT REAGAN HOME RESTORATION
Dixon, Illinois

22 March 1983

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

HOUSE

Basement 960 SF
First Floor 960 SF
Second Floor 710 SF

Demolition and Removal	\$ 3,000	
Exterior Restoration	31,500	
Interior Restoration	62,300	
Plumbing	1,600	
Heating and Air Conditioning	6,300	
Electrical	3,700	
Sub Total	\$108,400	\$108,400

FURNISHINGS

Allowance	25,000	25,000
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* BARN

Assumed Size 20 x 40 = 800 SF

Reconstruction	32,000	
Electrical	2,000	
Sub Total	34,000	34,000

SITE

Removal of Non-original Walks & Drives	4,000	
New Walks & Drives	3,500	
Landscaping	4,200	
Sub Total	11,700	11,700

PROFESSIONAL FEES

Historic Research		
Structures Survey		
Programming		
Architectural and Engineering	32,550	
Archaeologist (Allowance)	2,000	
Sub Total	34,550	34,550

Document Printing (Allowance)	2,500	2,500
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TOTAL

\$216,150

* *Jim reports that Friends of Gov. Thompson*

PRESIDENT REAGAN HOME RESTORATION
Dixon, Illinois

22 March 1983

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

PARKING & VISITOR'S CENTER

PARKING

Assumed Size 160 x 160

Demolition	\$ 10,000	
Paving, Curbs and Walks	60,000	
Retaining Wall	<u>24,000</u>	
Sub Total	\$ 94,000	\$ 94,000

VISITOR'S CENTER

Assumed Size 1,500 SF

Public Rest Rooms	400 SF	
Interpretive Center	600 SF	
Sales Area	400 SF	
Mechanical	100 SF	
General Construction	58,000	
Plumbing	14,000	
Heating and Air Conditioning	8,000	
Electrical	<u>15,000</u>	
Sub Total	\$ 95,000	95,000

PROFESSIONAL FEES

Survey (Allowance)	1,700	
Architectural and Engineering	<u>22,500</u>	
Sub Total	\$ 24,200	24,200
Document Printing (Allowance)	1,500	<u>1,500</u>
TOTAL		\$214,700



ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

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April 26, 1983

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thompson
517 Brenton Avenue
Dixon, Illinois 61021

Dear Bill and Jean:

For some time I have been puzzled why we do not get off the ground with our fund raising for the Reagan House. Recently Mrs. Thompson (Governor's wife) sat next to the President at dinner and she told me he talked a lot about the house and gave the impression that everything was going well. This weekend Mark and Betty Cox, good friends of the President's (they have a 65,000 acre ranch in Wyoming) were here. They had been to Washington to a State Department dinner given by Dan Terra. Terra is as you know the Pres-Ambassador at large and in charge of all fund raising. Terra told Mark Cox that he and the President wanted to put the house project and Presidential Library on ice until the next term after election. This goes along with Terra's action in veto of some of our fund raising ideas but does not fit in with what the President told Mrs. Thompson that he thought work was going on.

Carl Fischer (architect) has finished his work and has given me an estimate of cost, which we made 10 or 15 percent more than we really think. I enclose a copy. You will notice that the cost of house and barn (first page) would be about 250 thousand that adding the parking lot and small reception center would only be another 200 thousand.

Now I agree with Dan Terra that there should not be any fund raiser that wrote letters all over county begging for money or collect pennies from school kids. This would not be in the President's best interest. But I don't think it is in the President's best interest politically or otherwise to put the project on "ice" for two or three years in the condition it is in now. With large signs on the inter-state and other roads inviting people to visit Ronald Reagan's Home, it is not very good what they see. If I were such a tourist who turned off the main road to see what they now see, I think I would leave with the opinion that Dixon, the State of Illinois and others, did not think much of Ronald Reagan. In other words I think putting the project on ice is going to work against the President.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thompson
April 26, 1983
Page Two

What I am suggesting is that we do the House and barn the \$250,000 part and then put what ever else may take place on ice. It would seem to me that nationally the President should have enough friends who could raise the \$250,000 without much publicity. I believe, since I am not being paid for my work and certainly don't need more work, I can speak very honestly about this. I realize that anything we do in this regard will have to be approved by the President and Dan Terra and I will certainly go along with any decision they make. I am concerned that possibly we are not getting through the message of how things look here. I honestly don't think the house can stand as it now does for two or three years and win any points for the President.

If you agree with this and have further comments, please pass on to the President. If you think I should let it be, I would appreciate your suggestions in that regard.

Sincerely,



James T. Hickey
Lincoln Curator

JTH:pw

Dear Dutch ~

Thank you so much for your nice letter of April 13th ~ so good to hear from you, and thank for autographing the photographs for Mrs Warner ~ Blaney Glassner ~ my sons and their families and all the others. They were all thrilled to receive them, and asked me to thank you for them.

Madelaine Frazier has finally given up her home and has moved to the Dixon Health Care Center. We all feel it is the best thing for her to do, and she seems to be happy there, so believe it will work out fine for her. She wanted me to let you know where she was living now, and asked me to send you her prayers and best wishes.

Mrs. Warner has also been confined to the hospital for a few weeks, but is feeling better now and will be going home soon. She was really thrilled with the beautiful photograph saved by both you and Nancy. Thanks again!

I had a very nice letter from James Hickey a week or so ago pertaining to the Reagan house, etc. I have enclosed a copy of his letter as well as a copy of the Preliminary Cost Estimate on the Reagan house etc. for you to look over.

get very much the way Jim does regarding the progress in remodeling and re-furnishing the Reagan house and I talked to him at some length on the phone the other evening regarding the situation here. We both feel that it is creating a bad image of Dixon - the State of Illinois, and the President of the United States, and will really turn people off, when after seeing signs on all highways leading into Dixon "Hometown of Ronald Reagan" and "Ronald Reagan's Boyhood Home" and arrive there only to find out that

the home is not open - windows boarded up, and wholly un-accessible.

We had so many thousands of people go through the house last year, even when it was not ready for showing, and everyone enjoyed it so, that it seems a shame to stop now, and put it on the back burner so to speak for a couple of years or untill after the election in '84.

Jim and I certainly donot want to do anything that is not in accord with what you and Dan Terra have in mind, and we realize how busy you are, but still felt that you should know

③ of our concerns in this matter and possibly could advise us as to what we can do, or what you would like to have done at this time without disrupting any future plans that Dan Terra, and you may have in mind.

Would you like to have me stop in and see Dan Terra the next time I am in Evanston, so that we may come to some understanding as to just what can be done, and what the plans are for future fund-raising, etc.

Sean and I visit Dan Terra's Art Museum in Evanston quite regularly and we could easily make arrangements to talk to him if you think we should, or if you would like to have us make the gesture.

Jim and I had the feeling that a note or a telephone call to some of your friends in Calif. - Texas or else where - maybe Bob Hope - Sinatra - Pat Boone etc - that possibly enough cash could be raised to finish the projects that are important at this time, and let the others ride until after election

I wish I had the money to do the job myself, but sorry to say I haven't.

I personally feel that all this can be done in a far better manner by Dan Terra than by Jim Hickey or myself.

I realize what a tight schedule you are working under, but if you have a minute or so to spare you might drop me a line with your thoughts on this matter. All we need is a little info so that we will know what is in the works for the future.

We also realize that the situation caused by Carrie's daughter and her husband Lynn splitting up, and getting a divorce & with Lynn being appointed Curator of the Reagan home etc - this will no doubt take a lot of straightening out. Not a very satisfactory deal to say the least.

I am really very sorry, and hate to bother you with such trivial matters, but we just don't want anything to happen here to create a bad image.

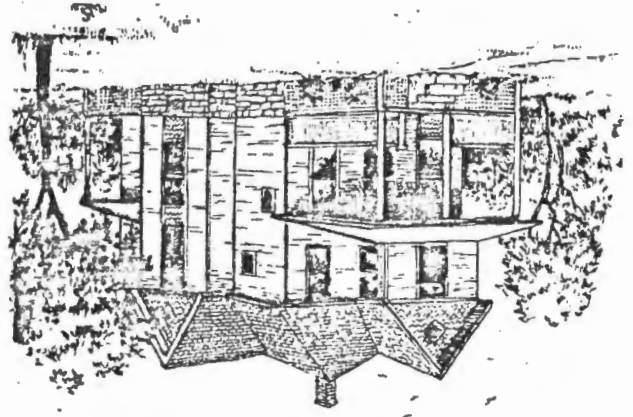
⑤ Sean and I also want to thank you for mentioning in your letter that when we came to Washington that possibly something could be worked out so that we could get together for a visit with you and Nancy, or at least with you for a few minutes in the oval office. I am not just sure whether it will be this fall or next spring, but we will surely get in touch with you when we decide to come.

Oh - Dutch - I have also acquired for the Reagan corner - Reagan house, museum or whatever, five more, TIME mag. covers, plus a couple covers from First Monday mag., and four or five US News & World Report covers, all with Reagan on the cover - a really great find! also a copy of the Official Guide to Reagan World, which by the way is great fun.

I would like very much to send these to you at your convenience for you to autograph them to Sean and I. I will really appreciate it very much - The Reagan Corner collection is growing!

Hope I have not taken up too much of your time, but felt that some of these matters were important.

Fond regards
Worm regard
To Joan & Bill - With affection &
Fond regards



Jean joins me in sending our best wishes,
& love to you and Nancy

Fond regards,
Bill

B ~ I received an invitation in the mail
from Paul Lavall to join the 1984 Presidential
Trust - which we will be happy to do,
and we hope this means an announcement
will be forthcoming soon -

REAGAN IN '84

How about it?
GIVE AMERICA A TREAT - "GO DUTCH" IN '84

PRINT
COVER - Etching No. 5 by James Swan, Chicago, Ill., 1981
"The Reagan House" Design, Ill. (816 S. Hennepin Ave.)
"Etched" Home of Pres Ronald W. Reagan 1920-1925
Home originally built by William C. Thompson in 1891
Dedicated to Thompson Burns May 29, 1931
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
JEAN OR BILL THOMPSON, 817 BOWEN AV.
DUPON, ILL. 61821 Ph. 1-815-388-1878
When in Dupon - 41517 The Thompson Home -

Anxious to
use my slogan
again!

Dutch ~

This little fun addition I just had to pass on to you ~

My little grand-daughter Erin, the "Little Dutchess" named after you, now about 14 months old, was visiting grandpa & grandma last evening, and busily toddling through the house.

Every time she passed by a photograph of "Dutch" (Reagan) (and there are quite few) or if she spotted a Book or a magazine with your picture on the cover, she would either touch it ~ point to it, or pick it up, and hand it to grandpa and say "Dutch" ~ "Dutch". Of course Grandpa beamed!

Cute part is ~ she calls me Bompa, says ma-ma very well, but does not say daddy very well, She sure can say "Dutch" tho ~ Kinda burns daddy up!