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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Western Art Festival and the Awarding of "Man of the West" to the President

The San Dimas Festival of Western Arts is a non-profit tax-exempt organization, essentially a subsidiary of the San Dimas Chamber of Commerce. The Festival will be holding its Eighth Annual Western Art Exhibition and Sale on April 28, 1984. At each such show the Festival honors an individual as "Man of the West." Past recipients include Roy Rogers, Olaf Wieghorst, John Wayne, Louis L'Amour, Gene Autry, Iron Eyes Cody, and Ben Johnson. In a January 16, 1984 letter, Executive Director of the Festival Robert L. Poff advised his personal friend Bob Carleson that the Festival wanted to name the President this year's "Man of the West." The President would receive a bronze sculpture and be painted by one of the Festival's artists.

The President will be in China during the Exhibition, but apparently the Festival still wants to bestow the honor and Mr. Deaver has agreed that it may be accepted. At the last minute it occurred to Linda Frick that our office should review the proposed letter of appreciation from the President, since the Exhibition is also a sale and since the Festival plans to use the statement in press releases.

I am not troubled by the President accepting the "Man of the West" honor from the Festival, or sending an appropriate message thanking the Festival for the honor. The Festival and Exhibition are non-profit activities, promoting a distinctly American cultural heritage. The fact that individual artists will be selling paintings that are exhibited strikes me as incidental to the cultural celebration. The President will not be endorsing any particular artist, simply recognizing the contributions of western art in general.

Nor am I bothered by the contemplated use of the President's message in Festival press releases, so long as the message is consistent with the foregoing. The draft message thanks the Festival for the honor of being named "Man of the West," praises the prior recipients, and wishes the Festival success in its "April celebration." No mention is made of

the concomitant art sale. I recommend deleting a reference to Bob Carleson in the message, since Bob has gone on to the private sector. A draft memorandum to Linda Frick is attached.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR LINDA FRICK

STAFF ASSISTANT

OFFICE OF WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE

n 17. 1 - 34 m 2-1

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Western Art Festival and the Awarding

of "Man of the West" to the President

You have asked for our views on a proposed message from the President to the Executive Director of the San Dimas Festival of Western Arts. The Festival, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, holds an annual celebration of western art, at which individual artists not only exhibit their works but also offer them for sale. At each annual show a "Man of the West" is chosen, and this year President Reagan has been selected for the honor.

If the President has decided to accept the "Man of the West" honor, we have no objection to sending a brief message of appreciation to the Festival, nor would we object to the Festival reprinting the message in its press releases. The Festival and exhibition promote western art in general rather than individual artists, and the President may be associated with such a general cultural activity. The President's message should, however, avoid any mention of the art sale and individual artists, and the proposed draft appropriately does so. We do, however, recommend deleting the first sentence of the second paragraph of the proposed message. Bob Carleson will be leaving the White House staff this week, and such personal references are not particularly appropriate in this type of message in any event.

Finally, we assume that the Festival organizers have been advised that the President will not be able to sit for a portrait by one of the Festival artists, apparently a traditional part of the "Man of the West" honor.

cc: Frederick J. Ryan, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President
Director of Scheduling

FFF:JGR:aea 3/28/84

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

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Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

DAVID DREIER

CALIFORNIA

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, B.C. 20515

BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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TASK FORCE ON CRIME

U.S.-MEXICO INTERPARLIAMENTARY
CAUCUS

VICE CHAIRMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE

TASK FORCE ON REGULATORY REFORM

March 15, 1984

Mr. Fred Ryan
Assistant to the President
for Scheduling
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Fred:

I wanted to follow-up on our conversation earlier this week regarding the City of San Dimas in Los Angeles County and their request for an alternative representative from the Administration to accept the award they are presenting the President with April 28.

As discussed, the city's "Festival of Western Art" is very important to them and if there were any scheduling changes made, I would of course appreciate your keeping the city's request in mind. Also, as you know, the city is interested in securing "sitting time" so that their artist may paint the President. Again, all consideration shown this request will be appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance. Mr. Bob Poff has requested that your office return the artist information booklet he sant you earlier. Accordingly, I would appreciate your forwarding that on to py office.

icerely,

DAVID DREIER

Member of Congress

DD:cv

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

March 20, 1984

Dear Mr. Poff:

Thank you for the honor of joining the ranks of Men of the West. I am glad to be included with many friends of mine in accepting your award, recognizing that I admire each prior recipient not only for their talents but for their contributions of that talent to preserving our Western heritage.

Bob Carleson has told me about the Festival's and Exhibition's contributions as well. I wish you success in your April celebration and regret that I cannot be there personally to enjoy the occasion with you. However, in fine Western tradition, I will be traveling further West.

With my deep appreciation to your committee, the Festival, and Association,

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert L. Poff
Exhibition Chairman
San Dimas Festival
of Western Arts
Box 146
San Dimas, California 91773

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on of 1/20/84