

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

DATE: 11-10

TO: Evelyn
Melanne
Betsy

FROM: Staff Secretary

Any reaction?

Bob

Chron

Paul has reviewed

Arter & Hadden

1801 K Street, N.W., Ste. 400K
Washington, D.C. 20006

*rec'd
7:15pm
11-7-96*

Fax Cover Sheet**DATE:** November 7, 1996**TO:** Todd Stern**PHONE:** 202-456-1414**FAX:** 202-456-2215**FROM:** Reta J. Lewis**PHONE:** 202-775-7105**FAX:** 202-857-0172**RE:** National Museum of Women's History**Number of pages including cover sheet:** 5**Message:**

*Todd -
Let me know if you can assist with
the attached request.*

ARTER & HADDEN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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November 7, 1996

VIA FACSIMILE - (202) 456-2215Todd Stern
Office of the Staff Secretary
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Todd:

Attached is a letter requesting President Clinton to sign an executive order establishing a President's Commission on the National Museum of Women's History (NMWH). Much like the executive order signed by President Jimmy Carter establishing the Holocaust Memorial and Museum, the Commission's mission would be to identify a federal site in Washington, gain legislative authorization of the site, and identify private funds for construction and renovation costs. The NMWH would be a lasting legacy to President Clinton's value for women's contributions in our society.

I will call you this week to discuss how to get the President to issue an executive order.

Sincerely,



Reta J. Lewis

RJL:jml
Enclosures
#3-46220

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

October 10, 1996

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

After a 76-year struggle by women, Congress has unanimously agreed to restore the statue of suffragists Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott to the Capitol Rotunda. Although these courageous and visionary leaders enfranchised 52% of our population, their images and story have been relegated to the Capitol crypt since 1921. Finally, due to the tireless work of the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, a project of the newly formed National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) in raising both public awareness and the congressionally required money for relocation costs, this important historic symbol will move to the Rotunda on the tentative date of November 19, 1996. (Enclosure 1.) NMWH is honored to invite you and Mrs. Clinton to participate in the Rededication Ceremony. Under separate cover, we are asking Mrs. Clinton to unveil the Suffragist Statue.

Because of the historical significance of these great American women and the fact that for the first time in our nation's history our foremothers and forefathers will stand side by side, we feel the Rededication Ceremony would be the perfect occasion for you to make an announcement or issue an Executive Order creating a President's Commission on the National Museum of Women's History. The Commission's mission would be to identify a federal site in Washington, D.C., gain legislative authorization of the site, identify private funds for construction and renovation costs, and develop plans to privately fund yearly operating costs. President Jimmy Carter issued a similar Executive Order to establish the U.S. Holocaust Memorial and Museum. (Enclosure 2.)

NMWH has the full and enthusiastic support of Betsy Myers, Director of the White House Office on Women's Initiatives and Outreach. In fact, Betsy calls this project a "gift to the President." Throughout our campaign to return the Suffragist Statue to the Capitol Rotunda NMWH has received strong support from many members of Congress. Representative Carolyn Maloney is so sure of the need for and public support of NMWH that she wants to make it part of her campaign efforts in the coming months. Since this must be a bipartisan effort, we will be soliciting support from both Democratic and Republican members of Congress. Considering the thousands of women and men across the nation that have given us a "thumbs up" with their calls, letters, and dollars, we believe that the time is right.

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Supporting the National Museum of Women's History by Executive Order would make clear your and the Administration's intention to honor women's past contributions, and to support and encourage their continuing contributions to our nation. The NMWH was created in response to American women's deeply felt concern about the distortion of their history. History is primarily that - his story, not her story. For example, few know the Mother of Medicine, Trotula of Salerno, Italy (? - 1097), whose contributions to the field of medicine rival those of Hippocrates. Women also feel a compelling desire in the face of major social and political change to give voice to their unique perspective on our nation's past and in creating its future. (Enclosure 3.)

We have attached more detailed information and supporting documents. We welcome the opportunity to discuss NMWH with you and your staff and are available to answer any questions.

We hope you will agree to announce the establishment of a Presidential Commission on NMWH at the historic Rededication Ceremony of the Suffragist Statue in the Capitol Rotunda. At a minimum, we hope that you will honor us with your participation and that we can continue to discuss the Executive Order. It could be signed in a future ceremony, perhaps in the Rose Garden.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do in support of women and children.

Most Respectfully,



Karen K. Staser
President, NMWH

HISTORY OF U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

- President Carter announced the formation of the President's Commission on the Holocaust in a White House Rose Garden ceremony celebrating Israel's thirtieth anniversary on May 1, 1978. In his remarks the President made clear that the motivation to build a Holocaust memorial was linked with the administration's support of Israel. (Linenthal, 1995)
- The commission was created at a time when American Jews were very disturbed over the idea of the Palestinian right to a homeland and the fact that Carter had linked the sale of previously promised aircraft to Israel with the sale of aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.
- Chief of Staff Hamilton Jordan asked Mark Siegel, deputy assistant to the President, to become the President's liaison to the Jewish community.
- On November 1, 1978, President Carter issued Executive Order 12093, creating the President's Commission on the Holocaust. Its mission was to submit to the President and the Secretary of the Department of the Interior "recommendations with respect to the establishment and maintenance of an appropriate memorial to those who perished in the Holocaust," to "examine feasibility of obtaining funds . . . through contributions by the American people."
- Executive Order 12169, October 25, 1979, created the Council on the Holocaust whose mission it was to implement the Commission's recommendations.
- Public Law 96-388, the Commission's enabling legislation, was passed on October 7, 1980. The legislation had a "sunset clause" which was a five year deadline - until October 7, 1985 - to satisfy the Secretary of the Department of the Interior that adequate progress was being made in raising the private funds necessary for construction costs and in designing a building that was acceptable to the various agencies involved.
- The official groundbreaking for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. took place on October 16, 1985.
- President and Mrs. Clinton, Vice-President and Mrs. Gore, and presidents and prime ministers of twelve other countries and representatives of twenty others attended the opening ceremony of the U.S. Holocaust Museum on April 22, 1993.

Enclosure 2

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