

**The original documents are located in Box 50, folder “President - Personal Portrait - General” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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September 20, 1974

Buchen  
Left  
Portrait

Dear Chip:

The arrival of your warm letter and the original drawing of President Ford were both surprises of real pleasure. I was delighted to hear from you and to have you recall the happy years when you and Terry were classmates in East Grand Rapids. You are right. They now seem a long time ago.

I hope everything is going well for you and your family. I know Terry will be glad to hear about you, and I am forwarding her a copy of your kind letter.

Many thanks, Chip, for your giving me the excellent drawing. Mrs. Buchen and I both appreciate your generous thoughtfulness, and we send you our very best wishes.

Most sincerely yours,

Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Mr. Louis A. Weil III  
Executive Vice President  
Westchester Rockland Newspapers, Inc.  
One Gannett Drive  
White Plains, New York 10604



westchester rockland newspapers, inc.

MEMBER OF THE GANNETT GROUP

LOUIS A. WEIL, III  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GENERAL MANAGER

August 29, 1974

Mr. Phillip Buchen  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

All the memories from East Grand Rapids High School, the Buchen family and those growing up years seem, for some reason, a long time ago. I was reflecting on them all yesterday as I read the fascinating story about you in the New York Times.

With this came the thought that you might enjoy having the original drawing of President Ford done by our staff artist, Frank Beccera, and so I am sending it to you.

I personally agree with the actions thus far of the new administration and hope that God's good grace will be with you all in the difficult months and years ahead.

My best to Mrs. Buchen and to Tory, whom I haven't seen or heard from in a number of years.

Sincerely,

Enclosure  
srb

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WEEKLY: REVIEW PRESS AND REPORTER, BRONXVILLE



OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
UNVEILING OF A PRESIDENTIAL PORTRAIT

THE CAPITOL HILL CLUB

7:03 P.M. EDT

Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the House and Senate, my dear friends and those of Betty, members of the Capitol Hill Club, and guests:

It is a great privilege and pleasure for us to be here.

And may I say to the portrait painter, the artist, that I am very flattered. I think it is excellent. Obviously, I like the pose.

You know, as a fiscal conservative (Laughter) -- I always enjoy seeing a politician with his hand in his own pocket. (Laughter)

But I do thank you, Mr. Johnson, and I am very grateful.

Obviously, Harold, I am very, very pleased to see that the Capitol Hill Club will have this portrait in a prominent place in a club that means a great deal to me. I can recall when the Capitol Hill Club was in a very small old building where the new Library of Congress is now being constructed. I can recall very vividly when it was over in the hotel for a good many years, and was a wonderful place where all of us could get together, have a good time, do things as fellow Republicans.

I was also part of the group that helped to put this building, and the one next door, together, and I recall with a great deal of satisfaction when we had a groundbreaking and then when we had the dedication. I have come to this building, as well as the one next door, on many, many occasions.

I think this complex is one of the finest things we have, as Republicans, in the Nation's Capital. It means a great deal to each and every one of us individually, to the Party. I think it is a good symbol of Republican togetherness. I am delighted, of course, to see so many people here tonight.

MORE

I just hope and trust that we can have many, many more occasions like this in the Capitol Hill Club.

I think it is important for us to get together. I think it is vitally essential that Republicans assemble in their own organization, their own club, and I appreciate the fine leadership that Harold is giving, along with others, to make certain that the Capitol Hill Club can be a meeting place for all of us.

So, I thank you from the bottom of my heart, Harold, and all of you who have contributed. I thank you on behalf of Betty and I wish you all the very, very best.

I can say for her, as well as for myself, it is wonderful to see all of you tonight and to have the expression of friendship and support which is important to me and to us in these very difficult times.

Thank you very much.

END

(AT 7:08 P.M. EDT)



*Rev. Sted*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BETTY FORD

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*

Larry Varnum, after reading the newspaper accounts of your disappointment with the John Ulbricht portrait, has dropped me a note to suggest that you might want to consider a portrait by Larry's wife, Zoë. He enclosed the attached brochure and photographs. Two of the photographs show oils done by Zoë of Judge Starr and of Larry. The others are pastel portraits of Ambrose, the long-time waiter at Kent Country Club, and of Lili Damita, the former wife of Errol Flynn. Larry points out that Zoë would be delighted to do the portrait without remuneration.

Larry also indicates that he and Zoë are planning a trip to Washington Monday, June 28. If you would let me know your reaction to this suggestion, I will call Larry before they depart for Washington.

Attachments

Laurent Kimball Varnum  
220 Fairview Road  
Palm Beach, Florida 33480

June 7, 1976

Dear Phil:

There was an article in the paper this morning to the effect that the President and Mrs. Ford were dissatisfied with John Ulbricht's portrait of him and that they were now looking for an artist with more realistic and traditional style. This is a very apt description of Zoë's work.

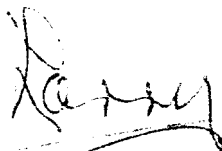
As you know, Zoë has been doing portraits all her life and, although she has specialized in children, she has also done many adults, including the former president of Cuba, Dr. Ramon Grau and his First Lady. As examples of her work, I am enclosing photographs of oils she did of Judge Starr and of me. Also a small photo of the portrait of Ambrose which hangs in Kent Country Club. This is a pastel, as is the other small one of Lili Damita, the former wife of Errol Flynn.

Phil, I am not using our friendship to solicit a commission for Zoë. In fact, I have insisted that she do less work and enjoy life more and have absolutely refused to let her have any exhibitions or accept any gallery commissions. Nevertheless, I know she would be happy and honored to do the President's portrait, not only because he is an old friend of mine but even more because of her great admiration of him. In fact, she would be delighted to do it without any obligation or compensation whatever.

We plan to be in Washington on Monday, June 28th, and could arrange to start the portrait at or around that time. Zoë works from photographs plus a color sketch and the sitting usually takes less than half an hour. We could, of course, make a special trip to Washington at a later date, if the last of June is not convenient.

Please tell the President that I have written to you instead of him only because I know how very busy he is at this time. Zoë joins me in warmest regards to you and Bunny.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Larry', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.