

The original documents are located in Box 300, folder “Mini-Crises - Shirley Temple Black - Blair House” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 11, 1976

Connie:

Per our telephone conversation
attached is a copy of Ron's letter
to Ambassador Black.

Peggy



October 1, 1976

Dear Ambassador Black:

I would like to reserve the Blair House for October 8 between 5 and 6:30 p. m. for a stand-up reception to accommodate approximately 175 people. The reception is for the editors from United Press International (UPI).

Mary Schneck informs my office that, as of now, the Blair House is free October 8 except for a luncheon. I thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Honorable Shirley Black
Ambassador
Office of the Chief of Protocol
Department of State
21st and C Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20520

BGreener:pjm
cc: Bill Greener

Shirley Black
Ambassador
Office of the Chief of Protocol
Dept. of State
21st & C St. NW
20520



October 11, 1976

Dear Ambassador Black:

I apologise for any inconvenience caused by the late arrival of my letter requesting the use of Blair House for the UPI reception. Frankly, I cannot understand why it took 6 days for my letter to get to your office. I am investigating further.

I'm positive that in the future, we can enjoy a smooth and efficient relationship.

The reception was held; the UPI editors felt extremely honored; and I think it was all for the benefit of the President. Thank you for your help and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

The Honorable Shirley Temple Black
The Chief of Protocol
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

RN/jb



THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

October 19, 1976

Dear Ron:

Thank you for your letter of October 11 and for the apology it contained regarding your request to host a reception at the Blair House for U.P.I. Editors.

I wish to report that it was a most unfortunate and unhappy night for the President's Guest House. Instead of 175 guests, there were 269. (They roamed all over the house with drinks, flopped on beds, many of the women took off their shoes and wandered around the halls.) I'm told that the catered food was terrible.

The saddest matter of all is the loss of a small carved ivory elephant. It was a piece left by the Blairs at the house and valued at about \$125. Ron we have had visitors stay there from all over the world and this is the first object from Blair House in its entire history to have been stolen. Can you think of any way to facilitate its return?

I bent the rules to let you use the house, and wish to assure you that I shall not do so again. After all, this is the President's Guest House, and must be accorded the honor and respect it deserves.

Regards,

Shirley Temple Black
Shirley Temple Black
Ambassador

Mr. Ronald H. Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House

CONFIDENTIAL



By KBH NARS date 2/9/93

eg

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1976

Dear Ambassador Black:

I am acutely embarrassed by the outcome of the UPI editors-publishers reception at Blair House. The President and I were out of town at the time, and although the editors and publishers were the guests of the President, it appears from your description that they did not conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the historic surroundings of the reception.

As for the missing elephant, this just simply astounds me. I have been in contact with a vice president of the UPI and expressed to him in the strongest terms my dismay and my urgent request that he make every effort to recover this missing elephant.

I appreciate your understanding and can only say that I share your sense of deep concern.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

The Honorable Shirley Temple Black
The Chief of Protocol
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

