

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

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September 21, 1974

Dear Mr. Oleson:

Senator Bob Griffin has conveyed to me your kind offer to donate your beautiful home on Long Lake for use as a Summer White House.

You are most generous, and I wish I could respond now. However, because of my own concern, as well as public concern, for the costs to the Federal government of improvements or changes necessary at any new location to provide security and communications capabilities, consideration of your thoughtful offer must be deferred.

Sincerely,

**Mr. Gerald W. Oleson
112 S. Elmwood
Traverse City, Michigan 49684**

PWB:ed

bcc: Sen. Robert Griffin



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Evo:

Please ask
Terry O'Donnell
to seek the signature
of the President.

This matter is
of personal importance
to Sen. Bob Griffin,
who brings to the
attention of the Pres.
through me.
P.

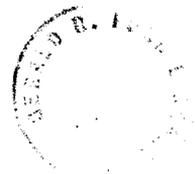
United States Senate

This property is
near National Music
Camp at Interlochen
(about 6 miles North) -

It is near Ski
areas - and it is
winterized (so could
be used in other
seasons - as well as
in the summer.

From the desk of

U. S. SENATOR ROBERT P. GRIFFIN



MEMO

To: President Ford

From: Bob Griffin

Here's another offer for a Summer White House!

Jerry Oleson, of Traverse City, is one of the finest Americans I know. He's very decent, religious, hard-working -- and he's made a fortune in the grocery business in Northern Michigan.

He owns what was the Armour Estate property on Long Lake, 7 miles west of Traverse City.

Jerry Oleson has asked me to convey to you the message that he would like to give you* this property for use as a summer White House. It would be ideal.

I understand you have received other similar offers (from Bud Summerfield, for example).

I don't know how they are being handled. If any of them are being checked out, I hope this one will be checked.

In any event, it would be nice if Jerry Oleson were to receive some kind of note from you, at least acknowledging you received the message. *

It can be sent to:

Mr. Gerald W. Oleson
112 S. Elmwood
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

P.S. Incidentally, our home is not exactly in the same class. But the Griffin home is on the same lake.

* He is willing to make outright gift; or to hold title and make it available free of charge; or to handle any other way you suggest. He doesn't want to take NO for answer. Peter Griffin

OLESON'S FOOD STORES

901 W. Front Street

Traverse City, Mich. 49684

Telephone (616) 947-6091

September 3, 1974

Dear Bob,

Attached is a brochure on a piece of property my wife and I own on Long Lake. We thought it might make a very nice summer White House for our new President. It is close to a good airport and has lots of privacy (250 acres).

We have just spent over \$200,000 in renovating the buildings and landscape. Some of the things that were done are new roofs, insulating of the buildings, and underground wiring was put in.

If you would like to take a look at this location some weekend when your home please just give me a call.

Jerry Oleson

OLESON'S FOOD STORES
901 W. FRONT STREET
TRAVERSE CITY, MICH. 49684

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 4, 1975

*President
Residence*

Dear Mr. Yergens:

Thank you very much for your recent letter of February 12 offering your services to the President in the event he is considering Hilton Head Island as a future residence.

Unfortunately, I do not know of any specific plans by the President to consider the Island for a future residence. However, the materials which you have forwarded will be kept for future reference.

Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Bill Yergens
Hilton Head Plantation Company
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29948





Hilton Head Plantation Company

Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29948 (803) 785-3333

February 12, 1975

RE
President Gerald Ford
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. President:

Recently, I was very pleased to read of your consideration of Hilton Head Island as a possible residence. Although I am somewhat biased as a permanent resident of the Island, I truly think that you and your family would enjoy it here.

I have enclosed some information concerning Hilton Head Plantation which is located on the north end of the Island. I hope that you will enjoy looking it over. I would also like to offer my services to you should you decide to take a closer look at what the Island has to offer.

I personally feel that you are doing an excellent job and I look forward with enthusiasm to your administration's successes.

Best regards,

Bill Yergens
Bill Yergens

BY/ckg

Encls.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 1, 1975

Dear Mr. Wolters:

On behalf of the President, I would like to acknowledge your letter of April 25 in which you inquired of the President's interest in Hilton Head Island.

At the present time, President Ford has no plans to purchase property on Hilton Head. Your kind offer to assist, if this were his intention, is most thoughtful.

With appreciation,

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Richard F. Wolters
6201 Mountain Brook Way, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30328

*Pres
(re: ...)*



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

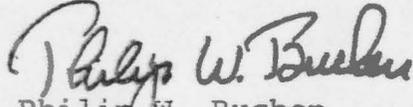
July 9, 1975

Dear Mrs. Mundt:

The President has no plans for acquisition of an additional residence, and therefore we must decline your suggestion that he look at your property on Burt Lake at the time of his scheduled visit to Mackinaw Island.

If there should be any change in the President's view about acquiring an additional residence, I shall let you know.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. Eleanora Mundt
Mundt Realty
Brutus Rt. 1, Michigan 49716

*Pres.
(vacation home)*

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

MUNDT REALTY



Appraisals - Real Estate

Telephone 529-6208

"OFFICE ON BURT LAKE"

BRUTUS RT. 1, MICHIGAN 49716

July 3, 1975

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President
White House
Washington, D. C.

RE: SUMMER WHITE HOUSE ON BURT LAKE

Dear Mr Buchen;

I phoned you this morning, but you were busy, so am writing to you instead.

With the advent of the President's visit to Northern Michigan next week, I would like to recall to your memory the brochure, pictures and maps I sent you last September, regarding a property on Burt Lake that is highly suitable for a Presidential Summer White House. If the President is considering a Summer White House in Michigan, I would very much appreciate it if you would look up your file on this property and present to the President for perusal before he leaves for Michigan. I don't believe he could find a property better suited for privacy, summer and winter relaxation, or to entertain visi

Governor Miliken has openly stated that he is urging the President to select a Summer White House in Michigan. According to the news agencies, the President will be spending some time with the Governor on Mackinaw Island, so I presume the Presidential plane will be landing at Pellston Air Port. The subject property is just 10 miles from Pellston, the roads are good, or there is plenty of space on the property for a helicopter to land, if that is the way the President will travel to Mackinaw Island. The President, or some member of his staff, could look this over with little trouble or time involved.

SHORT RESUME OF BURT LAKE PROPERTY

Approximately 25 acres with 1124 feet of choice lake front on one of Michigan's largest lakes, and part of the Inland Waterway. Property is high and beautifully wooded. The Main house has 13 large rooms, with 7 bedrooms, 5½ baths, 3 fireplaces. The Guest house is a complete home with 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths. There is a smaller house for servant quarters. Two large garages, barn, shop, misc. other buildings. Furnishings included in all houses. Regulation size tennis court, large protected boatwell with 6 roofed boat stalls. 10 miles from Pellston Air Port, 14 miles from the two famous ski resorts of Nubs Nob and Boyne Highlands. Property is the tip of Indian Point, very secluded and private, no buildings can be seen from the road.

I know you are a busy man Mr Buchen, and I thank you for your time and trouble. I do appreciate it.

Sincerely Yours,


Mrs Eleanora Mundt

President -
Summer
Home

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 16, 1975

To: John Marsh

From: Phil Buchen

Do you think a further reply is
necessary?

original
sent to
Central
Files

~~no~~

Phil -

I have a
suggestion

John



Ask Jack Marsh
if he thinks further
reply is necessary. If
not, send to files.
P.





Sea Pines Company

Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928 (803) 785-3333

President

*Summer White
House*

July 9, 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

Many thanks for your letter of July 1, 1975, concerning the desire of the citizens of South Carolina and of Hilton Head Island to establish a vacation White House here.

We fully understand and appreciate the reasons which suggest you decline this offer. We are, of course, disappointed that we cannot have the honor and privilege of having you and Mrs. Ford with us on a regular basis; however, we earnestly hope that you and Mrs. Ford will feel free to come to Sea Pines and be our guest at any time your heavy duties and responsibilities permit. I think I can speak for every citizen of this Island and for the people of South Carolina when I say we would want you to feel free to share our unique environment and relaxing atmosphere whenever you can.

With cordial good wishes I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Fraser
Charles E. Fraser
Chairman

CEF:sh

cc: The Honorable Strom Thurmond
The Honorable James B. Edwards
The Honorable John C. West
The Honorable Dwight Holder



July 1, 1973

WH 2
GI 3
GI 2
ST 40

Dear Sir:

Max Friedlander has shown me your letter of June 24 and the letter to you from Mr. Charles E. Fraser, Chairman of the Sea Pines Company at Hilton Head.

I very much appreciate the thoughtful and generous interest of the citizens of South Carolina, as expressed by Mr. Fraser, in making it possible to establish a vacation White House on Hilton Head Island. My interest in that location is strong, and both Betty and I would find the opportunity of again visiting Hilton Head Island most attractive. You know what a wonderful weekend we had in March of 1974 when the Frasers were so hospitable.

However, after careful consideration, I believe it would not be appropriate for me to encourage or allow the proposal to go forward. This is a most difficult decision, but I believe the proper one. I would like you to be informed Charles Fraser and the others, like Governor James Edwards, former Governor John West, and Dwight Alder, who have supported this generous proposal, and to express to them my sincere thanks for their interest and effort. I hope they will understand my decision.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

cc: Honorable James B. Edwards
Honorable John C. West
Mr. Charles E. Fraser

GRF:PWB:Dowdton

RECEIVED
JUL 2 1973
CENTRAL FILES

green copies used for name file
white copies used for chron file

July 1, 1975

W H 2

Dear Charles:

Senator Strom Thurmond has forwarded to me your letter addressed to him dated June 12, 1975. A copy of my reply to Senator Thurmond is enclosed for your information.

As I indicated in my letter to the Senator, this is a most difficult decision, but I do believe the proper one. May I reiterate to you personally how much both Betty and I appreciate your thoughtfulness and your willingness to be helpful. I am sure, however, you will understand our position.

Thank you again for your kindness.

Warmest personal regards,

JERRY FORD

Mr. Charles E. Fraser
Chairman
Sea Pines Company
Hilton Head Island
South Carolina 29928

Enclosure
GRF:Downton

September 24, 1974

Dear Mr. Fraser:

Governor Scranton has referred to me your recent letter in which you recommended Charles "Trip" Ballows for a position within the new Administration.

We are pleased to have his excellent qualifications and to know of his interest. - You may be sure that he will receive every consideration for all appropriate vacancies.

Thank you for bringing Mr. Ballows to my attention.

Sincerely,

Thaddeus R. Beal

Mr. Charles E. Fraser
President
See Pine Company
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29928



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 28, 1975

*Pres.
Vacation
H.H.*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

PHILIP BUCHEN *P.W.B.*

SUBJECT:

Proposal for Vacation White House
on Hilton Head Island

Attached are the following:

- (1) A letter of June 12 from Charles Fraser of the Sea Pines Company at Hilton Head to Senator Thurmond (Tab A).
- (2) A letter of June 23 from Senator Thurmond to Max Friedersdorf (Tab B) which has been acknowledged by Max Friedersdorf and directed to me for reply.
- (3) A suggested response to the Thurmond letter for you, to sign (Tab C).

You indicated that you wanted to see this proposal, even though you were certain that it would not be appropriate for you to accept the offer made. Because of the people involved, I suggest a response over your signature. If you prefer, I would reply over my signature indicating that I had discussed the matter with you and that you were gratefully declining.



June 25, 1975

Dear Strom:

Thank you for your June 23 letter concerning the proposal you received from Mr. Charles E. Fraser, Chairman of the Seapinas Company at Hilton Head, for the possible establishment of a Presidential residence on the Island.

I will be pleased to call this offer to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity. You will hear further as soon as possible.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

~~cc:~~ w/incoming to Philip Buchen for DIRECT REPLY to
Senator Thurmond - with copy to this office please.
bcc: w/incoming to Bob Hartmann - FYI

MLF:EF:VO:vo



JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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JOHN C. CULVER, IOWA

GARY HART, COLO.

PATRICK J. LEAHY, VT.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 23, 1975

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

JUN 25 1975

The Honorable Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President
Legislative Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Max:

Attached is a copy of a letter that I received from Mr. Charles E. Fraser, Chairman of the Seapines Company at Hilton Head, regarding the establishment of a vacation White House on Hilton Head Island for President and Mrs. Ford. I believe that the letter is self-explanatory.

I took this matter up with the White House staff some time ago and received no response from them. This was during the time of the heavy turnover on the White House staff, however, and I expect that it is something that was forgotten in the staff changes.

Please take this letter up with the President at his earliest convenience and let me know his feelings on the matter. I will be happy to assist you in setting up any meetings or providing any additional information on the proposal.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and with kindest regards and best wishes,

Very truly,



Strom Thurmond

ST/mo

Enc.





Rec
18 June 75

Sea Pines Company

Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928 (803) 785-3333

June 12, 1975

CONFIDENTIAL

Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Strom:

This will serve to outline the approach which Joe Elvove of my staff has discussed with Lew Beasley, concerning our suggestions to establish a vacation White House on Hilton Head Island for President and Mrs. Ford.

As you know, the President has expressed an interest in the Island and; we, in turn, have indicated to the White House, through Bob Hartmann, that we would be most pleased and honored to have the President with us. Accordingly, we have considered how to go about achieving the goal of having a Presidential home on the Island based on the following assumptions:

1. That neither we nor the President are in a financial position to purchase or build property suitable for him and his family and acceptable to the Secret Service from a security standpoint; and
2. That the arrangements made must reflect an appropriate public relations image for the President.

Joe Elvove has reviewed the President's interest with Governor Edwards and Dwight Holder. Out of these discussions, we have come up with the following suggestions:



1. That a voluntary, bi-partisan campaign be conducted among the citizenry of South Carolina for contributions, which, hopefully, would be in sufficient volume to provide the necessary White House vacation home on the Island.
2. That this campaign would be conducted within the following framework:
 - a) That no corporate contributions, direct or indirect, would be accepted;
 - b) That no individual contribution in excess of \$1,000 would be accepted;
3. That the ownership arrangements could be any one of the following, depending on the President's wishes:
 - a) An outright gift from the people of South Carolina to the President and Mrs. Ford; you will realize this might pose some severe tax problems for the President, which, however, might be resolved satisfactorily by the tax experts;
 - b) Life tenancy for the President and Mrs. Ford, after which the property would revert for similar life tenancy by the then sitting President and his wife. This is an arrangement somewhat similar to the one which the Augusta National Golf Club set up for President and Mrs. Eisenhower. In the case of the Golf Club, the property will revert to it on Mrs. Eisenhower's death. In the event a sitting President were to decline usage, the property could become available for use by the then Governor of South Carolina.
 - c) That the property be a gift from the people of South Carolina to the Government of the United States for use by the sitting President and, at the President's discretion, for visiting foreign dignitaries.

After Joe Elvove's discussion with Governor Edwards, who heartily endorsed the concept as one which would be extremely beneficial for the State, it was agreed that we should ask you to set up a meeting with either the President or some senior member of his staff, such as



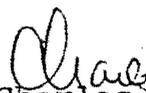
Bob Hartmann, which would be attended by the Governor, Dwight Holder, and by any other individuals who you thought might be helpful in bringing this idea to fruition.

As you can appreciate, we are most excited about the prospect of having the President as a regular visitor to the Island, and we share the Governor's feelings, which I am sure you also share, that a Presidential residence in South Carolina would be great for our State.

I shall look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

With cordial good wishes I am

Sincerely yours,


Charles E. Fraser
Chairman

CEF:sh

cc: Honorable James B. Edwards
Honorable Dwight Holder
Lewis Beasley



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 30, 1975

Dear Strom:

Max Friedersdorf has shown me your letter of June 24th and the letter to you from Mr. Charles E. Fraser, Chairman of the Sea Pines Company at Hilton Head.

I very much appreciate the interest of the citizens of South Carolina, as expressed by Mr. Fraser, in making it possible to establish a vacation White House on Hilton Head Island. My interest in that location is strong, and both Betty and I would find the opportunity of visiting Hilton Head Island most attractive.

However, after careful consideration, I believe it would not be appropriate for me to encourage or allow the proposal to go forward. I would like you to so inform Mr. Fraser and the others, like Governor Edwards and Dwight Holder, who have supported this generous proposal, and to express to them my sincere thanks for their interest and effort.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*John
P. ...*

April 13, 1976

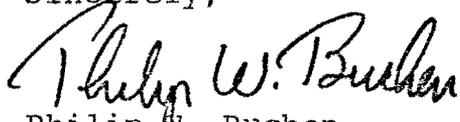
Dear Mr. Hacker:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 31 in which you propose the President consider buying a condominium at the Brickell Bay Club.

At the present time, the President is not interested in acquiring another residence at any location, and, therefore, it is necessary to decline your kind offer to provide additional information.

We appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Michael S. Hacker
Hacker and Phelps
Suite 1400
Ainsley Building
14 Northeast First Avenue
Miami, Florida 33132

