

**The original documents are located in Box C1, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 8/23/1974” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Mr. President,

Jay Johns is well known and respected in Virginia. He is blind and quite aged, but is still a promoter for his historical Trust properties.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

August 23, 1974

CONFIDENTIAL (PLEASE DO NOT DUPLICATE)

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mrs. Nancy Howe  
Special Assistant to Mrs. Ford

Johns / 2 don't think we should rent for such purposes. Neighbors would probably object.

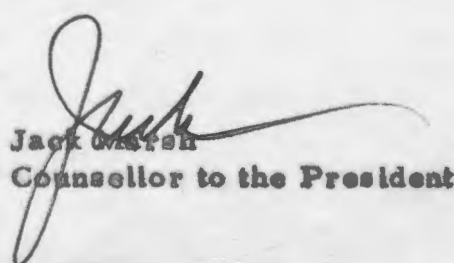
In reference to your call from Jay Johns concerning the Alexandria residence of the President, I tried unsuccessfully to reach Mr. Johns but Howard Kerr was able to talk to him later.

Mr. Johns told Howard that he had been in touch with Senator Harry Byrd and Senator Byrd suggested he contact me. I have known him for a number of years and he is interested in historical preservation and has been associated with a number of historical properties throughout the state including the Stonewall Jackson home in Lexington.

He says his group recently acquired the John L. Lewis home in Alexandria. They would like to rent the Ford dwelling in Alexandria and make it available for public inspection. Naturally, he would like to have left in the property as much of the furniture of the Ford family as possible. I understand they plan on charging admission which would be used to offset the cost of maintenance and rent.

I think a major factor in any decision President Ford and his family might make will be the impact this would have on the neighborhood.

You might want to discuss this with the family; however, if the decision is negative, I would urge a prompt response to Mr. Johns before the proposal gets momentum.

  
Jack Marsh  
Counsellor to the President

cc: The President ✓



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: September 11, 1974

Time:

FOR ACTION: Roland Elliott

cc (for information):

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: September 13~~th~~ 1974

Time: noon

SUBJECT:

Attached letter to Mr. Jay Johns from  
the President re: property in Alexandria

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

The attached ~~drafts~~ are forwarded for  
your review.

9/14 w/p

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a  
delay in submitting the required material, please  
telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jerry H. Jones  
Staff Secretary

Mr. Jay Johns

532 Park Street  
Charlottesville, Va.

Dear Mr. Johns:

Both Mrs. Ford and I wish to thank you for your inquiry in reference to the possibility of renting our Alexandria residence for the purpose of historical interest which would include public viewing.

We have discussed this and have decided that for the time being, we will retain this property for our own use. Although we are honored you would consider it of historical interest, we feel there are other considerations that presently preclude such use.

I noted from your letter that you had been in touch with Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia and, therefore, I am sending him a copy of this letter. Jack Marsh, a member of my staff, has also discussed this with me on your behalf and indicated he had talked with you on the phone.

Thanking you again for your interest and with kindest regards,

I am

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

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\_\_\_ For Your Comments

\_\_\_ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

The attached draft is forwarded for your review.

*O.K. -  
all recommended  
changes.  
R*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jerry H. Jones  
Staff Secretary

Mr. Jay Johns

532 Park Street  
Charlottesville, Va.

Dear Mr. Johns:

Both Mrs. Ford and I wish to thank you for your inquiry ~~into~~  
~~reference to~~ the possibility of renting our Alexandria residence  
for the purpose of historical interest ~~which would~~ <sup>to</sup> include public  
viewing.

We have discussed this and have decided that, for the time being,  
we will retain this property for our own use. Although we are  
honored you would consider it of historical interest, we feel there  
are other considerations that presently preclude such use.

I noted from your letter that you had been in touch with Senator  
Harry Byrd of Virginia ~~and~~. Therefore, I am sending him a copy  
of this letter. Jack Marsh, a member of my staff, has also  
discussed this with me on your behalf and indicated he had talked  
with you on the phone.

Thanking you again for your interest and with kindest regards,

*am*

Sincerely,

*R*

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 25, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: JERRY H. JONES

The President made the following notation on the copy of the memorandum you sent to Nancy Howe on the Alexandria property:

-- I don't think we should rent for such purposes. Neighbors would properly object.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Johns:

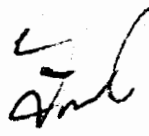
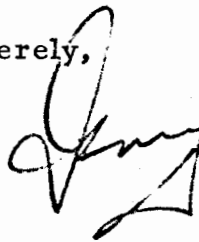
Both Mrs. Ford and I wish to thank you for your inquiry into the possibility of renting our Alexandria residence for the purpose of historical interest to include public viewing.

We have discussed this and have decided that, for the time being, we will retain this property for our own use. Although we are honored you would consider it of historical interest, we feel there are other considerations that presently preclude such use.

I understand you have been in touch with Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia. Therefore, I am sending him a copy of this letter. Jack Marsh, a member of my staff, has also discussed this with me on your behalf and indicated he had talked with you on the phone.

Thank you again for your interest and with kindest regards,

Sincerely,



Mr. Jay Johns  
532 Park Street  
Charlottesville, Virginia