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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 14, 1976

MR PRESIDENT:

The attached is for your information.
It will be handled in a routine manner
unless you indicate otherwise.

Jim Connor

*What is full story -
Get me a paper -*

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. . . .

VINSON, ELKINS, SEARLS, CONNALLY & SMITH

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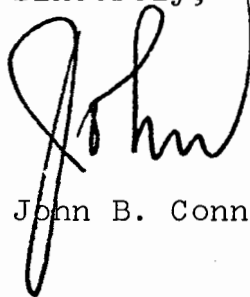
September 8, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

Here's a copy of a letter I received from Lincoln Borglum. His father, Gutson Borglum, was the sculptor of Mount Rushmore.

Obviously, he has an abiding personal interest, but in addition to that, it seems to me that he has an idea worth your consideration.

Sincerely,



John B. Connally

JBC:ba

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Lincoln Borglum
Box 908, La Feria, Texas 78559

Hon. John B. Connally
First City National Bank Building
Houston
Texas 77002

Dear Governor;

I am glad that you received the book, but I am sure that with the very busy schedule you have, you have not been able to get into its main subject.

Mt. Rushmore is becoming more and more a part of the American scene with almost each passing day, newspaper articles, photographs, advertising, etc., and one of the largest visitation areas in the National Park System.

As Rushmore stands to-day, we have a great National Monument, for all the world to see, but there is no record of why the mountain was carved or who its figures are. The plans called for a room to be carved into the mountain, directly behind the four heads, on the walls of this room would be inscriptions telling the why and who and a history of our greatness. Without this, we will be leaving another enigma for another civilization a hundred thousand years from now.

This plan was authorized by the Congress and some work done but all funding was stopped with the advent of World War II.

It would seem that a new start on this would fit very well into President Ford's announced new program for the National Park Service and be a very fitting record of our bicentennial. It would also have a continual economic impact on that whole area, since the tourists have to cross many states to just get there.

I would like very much that this could be brought to The President's attention and am taking the liberty of asking you for any suggestions.

Very Sincerely

September 1, 1976

Lincoln Borglum

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
October 17, 1976

Dear John:

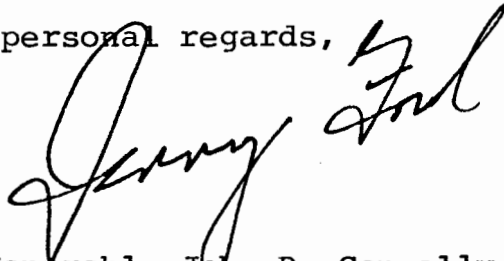
I have discussed with Secretary of the Interior Kleppe the letter which you sent me from Mr. Lincoln Borglum, son of the Mount Rushmore sculptor, Gutson Borglum.

We agree that the plan for establishing the Hall of Records at the Memorial has merit. The Department of the Interior proposes to introduce a draft general development plan for Mount Rushmore which will be presented to the public this winter. The Hall of Records will be one of the alternatives in the general development plan. Comments from the public will assist the Department in formulating a final concept.

Officials from the Interior Department will continue to consult with Mr. Borglum in connection with the Hall of Records proposal and the public review of the draft general development plan.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Warm personal regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry Ford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

The Honorable John B. Connally
First City National Bank Building
Houston, Texas 77002

FACT SHEET FOR THE PRESIDENT

When Gutson Borglum sculpted the heads of the four Presidents at Mount Rushmore, he also wanted to incorporate a "Hall of Records" which would be contained inside the mountain. The "Hall" would contain a record of the history of the United States, among other things.

The 80 foot tunnel to the proposed room 80 by 100 by 50 feet was begun, but abandoned prior to World War II because it was too costly (over \$20 million). It has not been revived.

The Department of the Interior proposes to introduce a draft general development plan for Mount Rushmore which will be presented to the public this winter. The Hall of Records will be one of the alternative proposals in the general development plan. The comments of the public will assist in approving the concept of the final development plan.

Should the "Hall of Records" become feasible, the visitors would view it electronically via movie camera. The only other alternative would be to have each person transported 500 feet vertically and 1,000 feet horizontally into the mountain. Logistical problems would result since visitation is projected to be six million per year by the year 2000.