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THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

Last Day - October 29

October 25, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

KEN COLE 

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution
S.J. Res. 236
Indemnification for the
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Attached for your consideration is Senate Joint Resolution 236, sponsored by Senators Pell and Javits, which authorizes the Secretary of State to enter into an agreement with the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York to indemnify the Museum against any substantial losses growing out of the transit or exhibition of certain paintings in the Soviet Union.

Roy Ash recommends approval and provides you with additional background information in his enrolled bill report (Tab A).

The NSC, the Counsel's office (Chapman), Bill Timmons and Domestic Council all recommend approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign Senate Joint Resolution 236 (Tab B).



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

APPROVED
OCT 26 1974

OCT 23 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution S.J.Res. 236 -
Indemnification for the Metropolitan Museum
of Art
Sponsor - Senator Pell (D) Rhode Island and
Senator Javits (R) New York

Last Day for Action

October 29, 1974 - Tuesday

Purpose

Authorizes the Secretary of State to enter into an agree-
ment with the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York to
indemnify the Museum against any substantial losses growing
out of the transit or exhibition of certain paintings in
the Soviet Union.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Department of State	Approval (Informally)
National Endowment for the Humanities	Approval
National Endowment for the Arts	Approval
Smithsonian Institution	Approval (Informally)

Discussion

Under a 1973 cultural exchange agreement between the United
States and the Soviet Union, certain Soviet works of art
will be sent to this country for exhibition next year,

Postal
10/28
To Archives
10/29



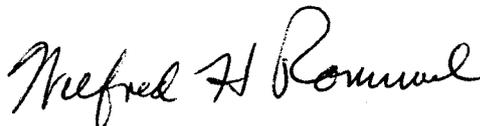
and the Metropolitan Museum will exhibit about 100 of its paintings in Russia.

The Metropolitan Museum paintings are estimated to be worth \$75 million. The Museum will not, of course, make its paintings available unless they are insured or otherwise protected against loss or damage. The cost of private insurance would be prohibitive if borne by the Museum and would add substantially to the expenses of the exhibition if borne by the National Endowment for the Humanities which is helping to underwrite the cost of the exchange.

To provide the necessary protection, S.J.Res. 236 would authorize the Secretary of State to enter into an agreement with the Metropolitan Museum to provide compensation for any substantial losses growing out of the transit or exhibition of the paintings. The resolution requires the Secretary to certify the amount of any indemnified losses to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and authorizes appropriations to pay any such losses.

The rationale for the indemnification which S.J.Res. 236 would authorize is basically the same as that underlying P.L. 93-287 enacted earlier this year to provide indemnification protection for Chinese works of art to be exhibited in this country.

Losses by major museums as a result of the international exhibition of their works of art have been extremely low, given the high professional standards of care and security, and the likelihood of any significant liability arising out of the agreement with the Metropolitan is considered quite remote.



Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

OCT 23 1974

Honorable Roy L. Ash, Director
Office of Management and Budget
West Wing - White House
Washington, D. C. 20513

Dear Mr. Ash:

I refer to Mr. Rommel's communication of October 21, 1974, which seeks the views of the Department of State on Senate Joint Resolution 236.

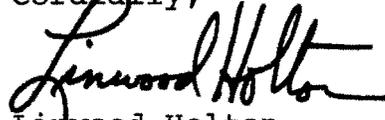
The Department of State recommends the approval of this legislation by the President. The report of the Committee on Foreign Relations on S.J. 236 sets forth in detail the background of this bill. It includes the relevant statement of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs William K. Hitchcock. In that statement, Mr. Hitchcock raised a question with regard to the completeness of the period of coverage of the indemnification provided by the resolution. This point has been met by subsequent amendment of the resolution to cover the period of transit to and from the USSR.

Two observations should be made with respect to the Committee Report. In a paragraph headed "Committee Action", the Committee pointed out that the resolution provides for indemnification "only for substantial loss or damage as determined by the Secretary of State," and that by substantial the Committee means "more than \$25,000." The Department of State understands this to mean that the agreement to be made with the Metropolitan Museum pursuant to the authority contained in the resolution shall include a "deductible" clause in the amount of \$25,000.

In the paragraph headed "Committee Comments", the Committee further notes that the paintings are valued at \$75 million, but "that the paintings will not be shipped en masse, and the value of any one shipment will not exceed \$5 million." The Department of State understands that this has been the practice of the Metropolitan Museum in the past, but recognizes that this cannot be considered an absolute rule. For example, it is understood that at least one of the paintings scheduled to be included in this exhibition of itself is undoubtedly worth more than \$5 million.

Finally, as pointed out by Mr. Hitchcock in his statement, the Department will require that the agreement of indemnification to be concluded with the Metropolitan Museum will provide that the Department be furnished with evidence that every possible precaution will be taken to minimize the risk of loss or damage.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linwood Holton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Linwood Holton
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D. C. 20560
U.S.A.

October 23, 1974

Mr. Wilfred H. Rommel
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Rommel:

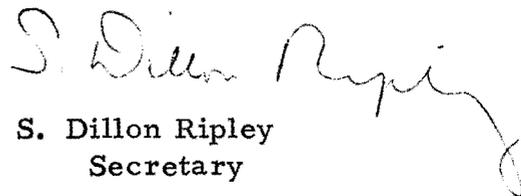
Thank you for requesting the views of the Smithsonian Institution on the enrolled bill S. J. Res. 236, to provide for the indemnification of the Metropolitan Museum of New York for loss or damage suffered by objects in exhibition in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The resolution would authorize the Secretary of State or his designee to conclude an agreement with the Metropolitan Museum in New York to indemnify the museum for loss or damage to objects from the museum which will be exhibited in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The agreement to be concluded is to provide that the period of indemnification shall extend from the time the objects leave the premises of the museum until they are returned, and that coverage is only for substantial loss or damage as determined by the Secretary of State.

The Smithsonian Institution supports the principle of government indemnification of objects in international cultural exchanges. Indemnification of national treasures is widely practiced in countries outside of the United States and is a useful and important means of increasing exchanges, as well as knowledge of the peoples of the world. We respectfully recommend endorsement by the President of S. J. Res. 236.

Sincerely yours,


S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506



October 21, 1974

Mr. Wilfred H. Rommel
Assistant Director for Legislative
Reference
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Rommel:

This is in reply to your request of October 21st for the views of the National Endowment for the Humanities on enrolled Senate Joint Resolution 236 to provide for the indemnification of the Metropolitan Museum of New York for loss or damage suffered by objects in exhibition in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This special legislation is most appropriate at this time in order to provide protection for the forthcoming Russian exhibit. The National Endowment for the Humanities recommends approval of Senate Joint Resolution 236 by the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald S. Berman".

Ronald S. Berman
Chairman

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR
THE ARTS

WASHINGTON
D.C. 20506



A Federal agency advised by the
National Council on the Arts

October 22, 1974

Mr. W. H. Rommel
Assistant Director
for Legislative Reference
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Rommel:

This is in response to your request for our views and recommendations on enrolled bill S.J. Res. 236, to provide for the indemnification of the Metropolitan Museum of New York for loss or damage suffered by objects in exhibition in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This legislation would authorize the Secretary of State to conclude an agreement with the museum for the protection of objects owned by the Metropolitan in exhibition in the Soviet Union as part of an exchange under the general agreement on contracts, exchanges and cooperation, signed July 19, 1973, by the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Under the exchange, which is the subject of S.J. Res. 236, the Metropolitan Museum is to send to the Soviet Union some of its collection of sixteenth to nineteenth century American and European paintings. The Soviets have promised in return to send to the Metropolitan Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art a collection of gold and silver from the 5th century civilization of the Scythians.

It is generally acknowledged that international cultural exchanges are one of the best means of preserving and strengthening peaceful relations between nations, and that such exchanges should be encouraged and assisted in every appropriate way. What is not so well known is that

insurance costs on these international exchanges are exorbitantly high. Because of such costs, some major exhibitions in the past have been cancelled. In other instances the high costs of insurance have been borne by the taxpayer through grants made by the National Endowment for the Arts or the National Endowment for the Humanities for the purposes of paying the insurance premiums so that the exhibitions could take place. This was the case last winter regarding the "Masterpieces of Tapestry from the 14th to the 16th Century" exhibition at the Metropolitan, in which a major collection of tapestries from Europe and the United States were put on special exhibition and were viewed by approximately 400,000 persons. Insurance costs for that exhibition alone totaled almost \$100,000 and were paid for by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Joint Resolution, which would put the United States in the role of an indemnitor, would eliminate the necessity of either the Government or the Metropolitan Museum paying out approximately \$250,000 to \$350,000 in insurance premium costs. Since the experience of the past two decades shows that losses on international exhibitions are practically nonexistent, there seems to be little justification for these large expenditures for insurance premiums which place a great financial burden on the cultural institution involved, or on the Federal Government if paid through a grant. To avoid such expenditures, we support the Federal indemnity approach contained in S. J. Res. 236.

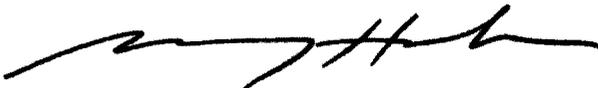
While the Endowment believes that this special legislation is appropriate at this time in order to provide protection for the upcoming Russian exchange, it wishes to note that this is the second time in recent months that such legislation has been deemed necessary by the Congress. The President on May 21, 1974, signed into law a similar bill (S. 3304), which authorized the "Secretary of State or such officer as he may designate to conclude an agreement with the People's Republic of China for indemnification for any loss or damage to objects in the 'Exhibition of the Archeological Finds of the People's Republic of China' while in the possession of the Government of the United States."

October 22, 1974

In view of these developments, the need for more comprehensive legislative authority in the form of a United States Government indemnification applicable generally to international cultural and scientific exchanges would seem to have been demonstrated.

The National Endowment for the Arts strongly supports this legislation and wholeheartedly recommends approval of S.J. Res. 236 by the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Hanks', written in a cursive style.

Nancy Hanks
Chairman

Last Day - October 29

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KEN COLE

SUBJECT: Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution
S.J. Res. 236
Indemnification for the
Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Attached for your consideration is Senate Joint Resolution 236, sponsored by Senators Pell and Javits, which authorizes the Secretary of State to enter into an agreement with the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York to indemnify the Museum against any substantial losses growing out of the transit or exhibition of certain paintings in the Soviet Union.

Boyd Ash recommends approval and provides you with additional background information in his enrolled bill report (Tab A).

The NSC, the Counsel's office (Chapman), Bill Timmons and Domestic Council all recommend approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign Senate Joint Resolution 236 (Tab B).

Last Day - October 29

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KEN COLE

SUBJECT: Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution
S.J. Res. 236
Indemnification for the
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Attached for your consideration is Senate Joint Resolution 236, sponsored by Senators Pell and Javits, which authorizes the Secretary of State to enter into an agreement with the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York to indemnify the Museum against any substantial losses growing out of the transit or exhibition of certain paintings in the Soviet Union.

Roy Ash recommends approval and provides you with additional background information in his enrolled bill report (Tab A).

The NSC, the Counsel's office (Chapman), Bill Timmons and Domestic Council all recommend approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign Senate Joint Resolution 236 (Tab B).

ACTION

Last Day - October 29

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KEN COLE

SUBJECT: Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution
S.J. Res. 236
Indemnification for the
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Attached for your consideration is Senate Joint Resolution 236, sponsored by Senators Pell and Javits, which authorizes the Secretary of State to enter into an agreement with the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York to indemnify the Museum against any substantial losses growing out of the transit or exhibition of certain paintings in the Soviet Union.

Roy Ash recommends approval and provides you with additional background information in his enrolled bill report (Tab A).

The NSC, the Counsel's office (Chapman), Bill Timmons and Domestic Council all recommend approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign Senate Joint Resolution 236 (Tab B).

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 24, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. WARREN HENDRIKS

FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *W. E. Timmons*

SUBJECT: Action Memorandum - Log No. 702
Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution 236 -
Indemnification for the Metropolitan
Museum of Art

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs in the attached proposal and has no additional recommendations.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 702

Date: October 23, 1974

Time: 6:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: ~~Tom~~ Hullin
Phil Buchen
✓ Bill Timmons
NSC/S

cc (for information) Warren K. Hendriks
Jerry Jones
Paul Theis

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Friday, October 25, 1974

Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution S.J. Res. 236 -
Indemnification for the Metropolitan Museum of Art

ACTION REQUESTED:

_____ For Necessary Action

XX For Your Recommendations

_____ Prepare Agenda and Brief

_____ Draft Reply

_____ For Your Comments

_____ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing

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.

Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 702

Date: October 23, 1974

Time: 6:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: Tod Hullin
Phil Buchen
Bill Timmons
NSC/S

cc (for information) Warren K. Hendriks
Jerry Jones
Paul Theis

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Friday, October 25, 1974

Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution S.J. Res. 236 -
Indemnification for the Metropolitan Museum of Art

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing

Kathy:

I recommend approval.

At

10-24-74

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.

Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 702

Date: October 23, 1974

Time: 6:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: ~~Tod Hullin~~
✓ Phil Buchen
Bill Timmons
NSC/S

cc (for information) Warren K. Hendriks
Jerry Jones
Paul Theis

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Friday, October 25, 1974

Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution S.J. Res. 236 -
Indemnification for the Metropolitan Museum of Art

ACTION REQUESTED:

___ For Necessary Action

XX For Your Recommendations

___ Prepare Agenda and Brief

___ Draft Reply

___ For Your Comments

___ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing

*No objection
D.C.*

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.

Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 702

Date: October 23, 1974

Time: 6:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: Tod Hullin
 Phil Buchen
 Bill Timmons
 NSC/S

cc (for information) Warren K. Hendriks
Jerry Jones
Paul Theis

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Friday, October 25, 1974

Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution S.J. Res. 236 -
Indemnification for the Metropolitan Museum of Art

ACTION REQUESTED:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Necessary Action | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Agenda and Brief | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Reply |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks |

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing

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.

K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

Last Day - October 29

MEMO FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: KEN COLE
SUBJECT: Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution
S.J. Res. 236
Indemnification for the
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Attached for your consideration is Senate Joint Resolution 236, sponsored by Senators Pell and Javits, which authorizes the Secretary of State to enter into an agreement with the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York to indemnify the Museum against any substantial losses growing out of the transit or exhibition of certain paintings in the Soviet Union.

Roy Ash etc.

The NSC, ~~the~~ Counsel's office (Chapman) and Bill Timmons ^{of Domestic Council} all recommend approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign Senate Joint Resolution 236 (Tab B).

To
Karen Handrick
10-23-74
5:15 p.m.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OCT 23 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution S.J.Res. 236 -
Indemnification for the Metropolitan Museum
of Art
Sponsor - Senator Pell (D) Rhode Island and
Senator Javits (R) New York

Last Day for Action

October 29, 1974 - Tuesday

Purpose

Authorizes the Secretary of State to enter into an agree-
ment with the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York to
indemnify the Museum against any substantial losses growing
out of the transit or exhibition of certain paintings in
the Soviet Union.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Department of State	Approval (Informally)
National Endowment for the Humanities	Approval
National Endowment for the Arts	Approval
Smithsonian Institution	Approval (Informally)

Discussion

Under a 1973 cultural exchange agreement between the United
States and the Soviet Union, certain Soviet works of art
will be sent to this country for exhibition next year,

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM EXHIBITION IN THE SOVIET UNION

OCTOBER 8, 1974.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HAYS, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.J. Res. 1115]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1115) to provide for the indemnification of the Metropolitan Museum of New York for loss or damage suffered by objects in exhibition in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the joint resolution as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

1. On the first page, line 7, strike out "any".
2. Page 2, beginning in line 5, strike out "The agreement" and all that follows down through "Socialist Republics." in line 9 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

The agreement concluded by the Secretary of State shall provide for such indemnification—

- “(1) during the period the works of art are in transit from the premises of said museum, on exhibition in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and returning to
- said premises; and
- “(2) only for substantial loss or damage as determined by the Secretary of State.

In the case of a claim for loss or damage with respect to an item or items which are covered under such agreement, the Secretary shall certify the validity of the claim and the amount of the loss to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out an agreement concluded pursuant to this joint resolution.

COMMITTEE ACTION

House Joint Resolution 1115 was introduced by Representative John Brademas for himself and Representative Wayne L. Hays on August 22, 1974. It was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and considered by the committee on October 8, 1974. It was ordered favorably reported with amendments on that date.

PURPOSE

The purpose of House Joint Resolution 1115 is to authorize the Secretary of State to conclude an agreement with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City for indemnification to the Museum for loss or damage it may incur in connection with its exhibit in the Soviet Union.

BACKGROUND

The exhibit of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Soviet Union is pursuant to an agreement of 1973 between former President Nixon and Chairman Brezhnev under which the 2 countries agreed to render assistance to the exchanges of exhibitions between the museums of the United States and the Soviet Union.

The first exchange is scheduled to take place in April 1975 with the Soviet Union sending to the Metropolitan Museum and to the Los Angeles County Museum the finest exhibition ever mounted of their incomparable collections of gold and silver objects from the 5th century B.C. civilization of the Scythians. In return the Metropolitan will send to the Soviet Union 100 of its most important paintings from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The estimated value of these paintings is \$75 million.

Under the terms of the agreement with the Soviet Ministry of Culture each participant pays for expenses incurred in its own country for the installation and security of the works of art as well as shipping and insurance coverage for its own material. All other expenses of the exhibit will be shared between the National Endowment for the Humanities and private monies brought in through fund raising efforts of the Metropolitan Museum.

A precedent for this legislation may be found in P.L. 93-287 enacted in May 1974. That law authorized the Secretary of State to conclude an agreement with the People's Republic of China for indemnification for loss or damage to objects in the exhibition of the archeological finds of China while in the possession of the U.S. Government.

Private insurance for the Museum's paintings that are to be exhibited in the Soviet Union is \$400,000. This is a prohibitive sum for a private museum to advance from its limited resources. In a letter to Representative Brademas the President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Mr. Douglas Dillon, wrote:

*** It is the Metropolitan's policy to limit the dollar value of any shipment of art on any single aircraft so as to minimize the exposure to catastrophe. In the past, for example, we have limited such shipments to \$5 million per plane. The record is worth noting. Damages and/or losses in major in-

ternational exchanges of works of art—both in our own experience and that of major museums around the world of which we are aware—have never exceeded \$25,000. This record has been made possible, in part, by the highest professional standards of security and handling of works of art.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments (1) extend coverage for indemnification during transit to and from the Soviet Union as well as during the exhibit itself in the Soviet Union; (2) limit indemnification to substantial loss or damage; and (3) provide that the Secretary of State will certify the validity of the claim and the amount of the loss to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. An authorization for an appropriation to pay indemnification, should any be established, is included.

COST

The committee amendments have the effect of limiting the liability of the Government to loss or damage that is "substantial". This eliminates the possibility of a claim for such an item as a damaged picture frame or for any other damage that does not reduce the value of the portraits themselves. Given the precautions taken in handling and shipping and the safety record that museums have established in moving their exhibits, it is unlikely that the U.S. will be called upon for any indemnification.

CONCLUSIONS

The Department of State regards this exhibit as an important element in its international cultural exchange program. It will offer the people of the Soviet Union an opportunity to see an aspect of American cultural life and of American taste and creativity not readily perceived through ordinary methods of communication. As a collection of great works of art, these paintings from the Metropolitan's collection will, in effect, allow the United States to put its best foot forward in an area of particular interest to the Soviet people.

○

Ninety-third Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-first day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-four*

Joint Resolution

To provide for the indemnification of the Metropolitan Museum of New York for loss or damage suffered by objects in exhibition in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of State (or such officer of the Department of State as he may designate) is authorized to conclude an agreement with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, located in New York, New York, for indemnification of such museum, in accordance with the terms of such agreement, for loss or damage suffered by objects in an exhibition of such museum in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics pursuant to an agreement between such museum and the Ministry of Culture of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which agreement was made in accordance with the general agreement on contracts, exchanges, and cooperation, signed July 19, 1973, by the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The agreement concluded by the Secretary of State shall provide for such indemnification—

(1) during the period the works of art are in transit from the premises of said museum, on exhibition in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and returning to said premises; and

(2) only for substantial loss or damage as determined by the Secretary of State.

In the case of a claim for loss or damage with respect to an item or items which are covered under such agreement, the Secretary shall certify the validity of the claim and the amount of the loss to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out an agreement concluded pursuant to this joint resolution.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

HHH
TTTT
HHH
III

October 17, 1974

Dear Mr. Director:

The following bills were received at the White House on October 17th:

S.J. Res. 236 ✓	S. 2840 ✓	H.R. 7768	H.R. 14225
S.J. Res. 250 ✓	S. 3007 ✓	H.R. 7780	H.R. 14597
S.J. Res. 251 ✓	S. 3234 ✓	H.R. 11221	H.R. 15148 ✓
S. 355 ✓	S. 3473 ✓	H.R. 11251 ✓	H.R. 15427
S. 605 ✓	S. 3698 ✓	H.R. 11452 ✓	H.R. 15540 ✓
S. 628 ✓	S. 3792	H.R. 11830 ✓	H.R. 15643 ✓
S. 1411 ✓	S. 3838 ✓	H.R. 12035 ✓	H.R. 16857 ✓
S. 1412 ✓	S. 3979 ✓	H.R. 12281	H.R. 17027 ✓
S. 1769 ✓	H.R. 6624	H.R. 13561 ✓	
S. 2348 ✓	H.R. 6642 ✓	H.R. 13631 ✓	

Please let the President have reports and recommendations as to the approval of these bills as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Linder
Chief Executive Clerk

The Honorable Roy L. Ash
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C.