

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 13, 1974

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
MRS. MARY BROOKS
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
AND

JOHN W. WARNER
AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION

THE OVAL OFFICE

1:25 P.M. EST

MRS. BROOKS: I just wanted to say this is a very proud day for me and for the country, because we are changing the coinage more than it has ever been changed in our Nation's history, for the 200th birthday of the country.

These are not going to just be commemorative coins, they are going to be circulated coins. They will be made and be put through all the banks in the country, and every man, woman and child in the country will have a chance to pick up a circulating coin. They will touch everybody in the whole country.

THE PRESIDENT: What coins are they?

MRS. BROOKS: The dollar and the half dollar and the quarter.

THE PRESIDENT: Are they going to be worth as much?

MRS. BROOKS: Oh, we hope they will be worth a bit more; don't we? We hope they will be worth more.

Now this is a set, and this is the first set of proofs. We are going to make 45 million of the 40 percent silver ones by Act of Congress, and we are limited as to the amount of proofs that we can sell because they are sort of handmade, but we will make these and we are taking orders starting Friday.

Q How much are they?

MRS. BROOKS: These will be \$15 and the uncirculated silver ones will be \$9.

MORE

(OVER)

THE PRESIDENT: What is on the back, Mary?

MRS. BROOKS: The dollar is made by a student and he has the Liberty Bell and the moon. He was a student in an art school in Columbus, Ohio.

Q Are these sets all silver?

MRS. BROOKS: They are 40 percent silver. That is as much silver as Congress will let us use.

Then the Independence Hall is on the back of the half dollar and the drummerboy is on the back of the quarter.

THE PRESIDENT: They are very, very interesting in an artistic sense.

MRS. BROOKS: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: And in a historical sense as well.

MRS. BROOKS: Yes, historical.

THE PRESIDENT: And Washington is on the quarter.

MRS. BROOKS: And Kennedy and Eisenhower.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, congratulations to you. I think it is very significant as a part of the Bicentennial, and I am sure John Warner provided the inspiration --

MR. WARNER: Yes, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: -- imagination and action.

I can compliment you on not only the action but on the effort to participate. I think it is wonderful, Mary.

MRS. BROOKS: Thank you.

MR. WARNER: It is one of the best competitions that has been held thus far in the Bicentennial.

Q Can you tell us which coin Kennedy is on?

THE PRESIDENT: Kennedy is on the half dollar and on the back is Independence Hall. Washington is on the quarter, and the drummer boy is on the back, and the moon and the Liberty Bell is on the dollar with Eisenhower on the back.

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Q You say there will be \$45 million of these sets?

MRS. BROOKS: There will be 45 million silver ones we are allowed to make. We will only be able to make in the proof about 4 million a year. We hope to make them for two years. But we are already getting volumes of orders. It is tremendous.

Q \$15 a set; is that right?

MRS. BROOKS: Yes, for this proof set.

Q You said something about the uncirculated coins.

MRS. BROOKS: The uncirculated silver ones will be \$9.

THE PRESIDENT: Those are the ones that come in these paper rolls?

MRS. BROOKS: Yes. They won't be packaged as elaborately as this.

THE PRESIDENT: How many participated in the competition for the designs?

MRS. BROOKS: We had almost a thousand designs come in from men, women and school children. We have kept the school children's and we are going to probably put those designs in the museum somewhere. They are terribly interesting.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you recall who won the contest, the name?

MRS. BROOKS: Yes. This is a boy from Columbus, Ohio. Dennis --

THE PRESIDENT: I hope he didn't go to Ohio State. (Laughter)

MRS. BROOKS: An art school. Sorry, I don't have a Michigan winner for you.

And Jack Ayre, who won the quarter, is from Arlington Heights, Illinois, and this one was from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

MORE

Q The 50-cent piece was designed by someone from Minneapolis, Minnesota?

MRS. BROOKS: Yes.

We have press kits with all this information in it.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to thank you, Mary.

MRS. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Congratulations. It was a great project and it will contribute significantly to the Bicentennial.

MRS. BROOKS: I hope so.

THE PRESIDENT: John, thank you.

Nice to see you all again.

END

(1:30 P.M. EST)