National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

MAR 14 2005

The Rev. John H. Taylor
Executive Director
The Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation
18001 Yorba Linda Blvd.
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Dear John:

I want to thank you for coming across the country to meet with me about planning for the Nixon Library. I think we had a good conversation and came to several agreements about what needs to be done to keep moving forward.

For our part, we propose, contingent on appropriations, that we accept the Library under the terms of the Presidential Libraries Act when the retrofit is complete. You project completion of the retrofit sometime in February 2006. We can work together to determine the date for the transfer ceremony in anticipation of the completion of the retrofit. In fulfillment of the Presidential Libraries Act requirements, NARA will prepare and submit to Congress this summer the formal proposal for transfer of the Library to the government. With regard to appropriations, it is important to the National Archives that we not take over operation of the Nixon Library at the expense of our other programs and services. We will need to receive new funds for staff, operations, and movement of materials if we are to complete the transfer of the library to the government in February 2006. The Nixon Foundation is responsible for securing funds for the archival storage addition.

NARA staff at our meeting and other staff at the National Archives will continue to work with you and the Nixon Library staff on developing the letter of offer and later the joint use and transfer agreement for the establishment of a NARA-operated Presidential Library at the Yorba Linda facility. We will work with you to reach agreement on space, revenue, building use requirements and other issues that will need to be finalized before the transfer is completed. We expect the offer of the facility to include the donation or planned donation of the majority of Nixon pre- and post-presidential materials at the Library and those personal-political materials currently in NARA's custody.

I note your commitment to complete prior to transfer and acceptance of the Library by the government the retrofit for NARA offices, research rooms, artifact storage, and exhibit processing space in accordance with our standards and to provide a modern security system. NARA has begun and will continue to work with you on design and requirements as both the construction project for the retrofit and the archival storage addition move forward. We are also working with your staff on planning for the future transfer in increments of the Nixon materials held in Laguna Niguel and College Park.

The tapes and related materials needed for processing the tapes will be moved following the release of the 5th and last chronological segment which is projected to be in 2008 or 2009. I appreciate the assistance from your staff and your grant to fund an intern for preparing the Nixon artifacts held in College Park for the transfer to Yorba Linda.

As you heard in my investiture remarks, I have long supported Presidential Libraries and very much look forward to the Nixon Library being a part of the NARA system of Presidential Libraries. As a member of the Presidential Library system, the Nixon Library will be operated in accordance with National Archives statutes, regulations, and practices governing the Nixon materials and presidential libraries. In anticipation of the transfer you will be redesigning parts of the Nixon Library exhibit to bring it into conformance with NARA guidelines. I believe it would be helpful for you to work with our staff on designing and vetting this exhibit. I also trust and believe it important that you quickly find a way to work out details for an early wide-ranging and multi-perspective conference on Vietnam as a replacement for the recently cancelled program.

I follow a long line of Archivists who have worked closely with the library support organizations to sustain the public private partnership between the foundations and the government. These partnerships have been essential in creating the lively centers of public scholarship and public programming that are essential to civic education. I look forward to working with you and the Nixon Foundation Board in establishing this new era for the Nixon Library that will unify President Nixon's historical materials in one place offering scholars and citizens the opportunity to examine the presidency and career of Richard Nixon and the issues of his time.

I or my staff will be in touch to work out a date for meeting the Foundation Board. Please feel free to call me at any time.

Sincerely,

Allen Weinstein

ALLEN WEINSTEIN
Archivist of the United States