

EXECUTIVE (3)

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PORTER, HERBERT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 24, 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVID PARKER

FROM: KEN W. CLAWSON *KC*

SUBJECT: CHARLIE^x CHAPLIN

I consider it inappropriate and inadvisable for us to even consider the possibility of having Charlie Chaplin come and meet with the President.

As you know, Charlie Chaplin made his entire fortune making films in the United States. Despite the generosity of the Nation toward him, he never became a citizen of this country. In addition, there was considerable discussion during the 1930's and 1940's about Chaplin's loyalty to even our form of government, much less the government itself.

In 1952, he was refused re-entry into the U. S. by the Attorney General on grounds of moral turpitude. As a result, Chaplin denounced the nation, sold his household effects and vowed never to return. Despite his unquestioned artistic talents over the years, I don't think anyone in the country will be able to separate this gigantic artistic talent for Chaplin's decidedly un-American utterances and stances.

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3/30/72 ST 32 N.Y.C.

March 30, 1972

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

Thank you, on behalf of the President and Mrs. Nixon, for the kind invitation you have extended to them to attend the "Salute to Charlie Chaplin" at Philharmonic Hall, Lincoln Center, New York, on April 4.

Although their schedule is such that they cannot be with you at that time, they warmly appreciate your thoughtfulness of them and send their best wishes.

Sincerely,

David N. Parker
Staff Assistant
to the President

Mr. David Rockefeller, Jr.
1865 Broadway
New York, New York 10023

DNP:dzm

N. via Len Garment before dispatch