

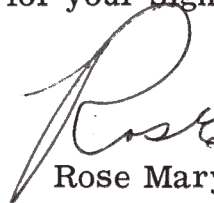
MR. PRESIDENT:

I have gone into Los Angeles for a few hours with Pat Hitt.

In the meantime, the attached letter has been submitted for signature for you to send to Jackie. In the first place, this Kennedy Center was started under Eisenhower - and none of the Kennedy people have really given much to it -- I think this is terrible and believe it has you giving all the credit for the Center to Jack and Jackie. There is no mention of Eisenhower (under whose Administration it started) and no mention of the work done under both the Johnson Administration and your own.

Also I think the reference to "her inspiring" Jack is not quite right for you to say. (Particularly ["] since she is married to someone now)

You may disagree and let it go -- BUT I think it is too mushy and too much KENNEDY for your signature at this time.


Rose Mary Woods

~~A - Joyce
an utterly terrible
letter
forget it.~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
The Western White House
San Clemente

August 30, 1971

Dear Mrs. Onassis:

The opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is for all Americans a milestone in our nation's cultural history. It is a tribute to the genius and the vision of the great men who conceived it and helped make it a reality for our people, and it would have brought special pride to the President whose name it bears.

Mrs. Nixon and I are most pleased and honored that you will be occupying the President's box on Opening Night.

President Kennedy once said that he looked forward to "an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty . . . which will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens . . . which commands respect not only for its strength but for its civilization as well."

This occasion brings his dream -- a dream shared by millions of fellow citizens -- closer to fulfillment. It is most appropriate that you who played the greatest part in inspiring that dream will be there to rejoice in an event that would have meant so much to him.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Aristotle Onassis
1040 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

THE WHITE HOUSE

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1040 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York