

BACKGROUND ON EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES ALLEN WEINSTEIN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RICHARD NIXON LIBRARY & BIRTHPLACE FOUNDATION JOHN TAYLOR

- After extensive discussions over the past year on the process for bringing the Richard M. Nixon Library into the Presidential Library system operated by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), letters stating the general terms of agreement were exchanged between the National Archives and the Nixon Foundation on March 14, 2005 and March 15, 2005.
- NARA has agreed to accept the Library in February 2006, under the terms of the Presidential Libraries Act (which includes reporting to Congress the details of the gift prior to acceptance in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2112), provided the retrofit is complete and there is adequate additional funding in NARA's FY06 budget.
- The Nixon Library is solely responsible for securing the funding to build additional space that will be necessary to store the archival materials.
- Once NARA assumes control of the Nixon Library, the Nixon presidential materials will be transferred from the NARA facility in College Park to the NARA facility in Yorba Linda, staffed and operated by NARA. The complete transfer of these materials will take 4-5 years. During that time, NARA will continue to review White House tapes in College Park.
- The Nixon Library will be operated in accordance with National Archives statutes, regulations, and practices governing the Nixon materials and presidential libraries.
- The letter of offer and joint use and transfer agreement for the establishment of a NARA-operated Nixon Presidential Library will contain agreements on the following:
 1. Arrangements for the donation of the majority of Nixon pre-and post-presidential materials at the Library
 2. Arrangements for the donation of the personal-political materials currently in NARA's custody, including the personal-political conversations from the Nixon recordings.
 3. Space, revenue, and building use requirements
- NARA will continue consultations with interested historians, archivists, and other interested stakeholders as this process moves forward.
- The Nixon Library will redesign parts of the Nixon Library exhibit to bring it into conformity with NARA guidelines. The Library will consult with the National Archives on the content.
- The Archivist stated the importance of the Nixon Library developing details for a multi-perspective conference on Vietnam as replacement for the one that was recently cancelled, along with other multi-perspective program events.