

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

DATE

15 Sep 88

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REMARKS:

EVA seen

19 SEP 1988

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FROM:

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ROOM NO.

BUILDING

1502

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FORM NO.

REPLACES FORM 36-8



Washington, D.C. 20505



OCA 88-3013  
16 SEP 1988

The Honorable Joseph M. McDade  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. McDade:

The Director has asked me to respond to your letter of 22 August 1988 on behalf of a constituent who is concerned about art commissioned by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for our new Headquarters Building.

The fine art for the new Headquarters Building is being acquired by the Art in Architecture program of the General Services Administration (GSA). Artwork in public buildings has its historical antecedents in the Work Project Administration (WPA) as a part of President Roosevelt's New Deal program. This tradition of art for public buildings was more recently reinforced by both the Kennedy and Ford Administrations. History often judges a society by its achievements in the arts and for much of this century, the federal government has been an important patron of the arts. GSA's Art in Architecture program follows in this proud tradition.

The objective of an art-in-architecture program is to provide federal facilities with works of art as an integral part of the total architectural design concept as deemed appropriate by the project architect. In this case, the works are created by American artists of local, regional or national reputation to enhance the working environment for the building's occupants.

We too share your concern for the prudent expenditure of federal funds. In this regard, GSA commissions artwork only on the recommendation of the architect when it will enhance the design of a new building. According to GSA guidelines

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for all federal offices, the expenditure for fine art can be no more than one-half of 1 percent of the overall construction costs. The cost of fine art for the CIA building is well within the GSA guidelines.

Thank you for writing on behalf of your constituent and allowing me the opportunity to discuss our proposed artwork.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

John L. Helgeson  
Director of Congressional Affairs

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