

CENTER FOR ARTS OF INDIAN AMERICA

1623 Belmont Street, NW P.O. Box 17214 Washington, D.C. 20041 202/483-3230

June 25, 1969

Miss Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Laura and Jim:

I have just received Laura's letter of June 6 with enclosures. I'm sorry you both misunderstood me when I was last in Santa Fe. Mrs. McFarlane is correct in stating that we were prohibited by GSI regulations from using the budget given us to operate the Gallery at Interior for an exhibition off government property. This was made very clear to us by both the President and Comptroller of GSI - thus, my expressed concern about scheduling the show after Stewart's departure from the Department. Our best hope was that Secretary and Mrs. Hickel would sponsor the show (at our expense) in the Interior Gallery. They waited an uncomfortably long period before declining. Then, Bob Bennett expressed the desire to sponsor it, but the situation became even more difficult, as the word went around that Secretary Hickel intended to open the Gallery with an exhibition of Alaskan art. At this point, I stopped pressing the matter of having Laura's exhibition in the Department. We had moved out January 15 and it was necessary to specify the remainder of the \$3,000 which was budgeted for Laura's show as scholarship funds. (In our original agreement with GSI, it was specified that money not used for exhibitions in the Interior Gallery during each fiscal year would be designated as scholarship funds for Indian students.) This was our only alternative; otherwise, the funds would have reverted to GSI. At this point, I am wondering if the misinterpretations might not have come from Kitty Massey, for she too keeps insisting we have money left in the GSI budget to cover the expenses of installing the show. We do not.

It was always our understanding that funds spent to prepare the exhibition were to be deducted from the purchase price of the exhibition. In no way could we justify paying to prepare an exhibition and then purchase it in addition. As Dorothy stated in her letter of October 30, 1968, the \$500 represented a partial payment for the collection. I am deeply sorry for this misunderstanding, but the figure was entered in our books and accounted for as designated when the check was sent.

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It was months later before we learned that you both considered it an item in the exhibition budget.

With regard to the handwritten note - it appears to be Jim's handwriting - probably a suggested beginning of a letter Jim meant Laura to write to Mrs. McFarlane. At any rate, there is nothing similar in our files and neither of us has seen it before.

Now -- let's turn to something positive. I have contacted every conceivable Gallery in Washington and find that exhibition space is heavily booked through 1969. The greatest encouragement came from the Library of Congress where exhibit collections which become a part of the permanent exhibitions library are displayed at the time they are acquired. I worked on this prospect for several days with Dr. Basler, Assistant Director of the Library, attempting to find a donor who would purchase or match funds to purchase the entire retrospective. (Naturally, I would not have finalized any arrangements until contacting you.) Anyway, this eventually fell through. I have spoken with a number of persons at Smithsonian and knew that we could get the show in the traveling exhibition. I thought, however, Laura was primarily interested in a fifty-year retrospective and have proceeded along those lines. I have tried to reach Mr. Ahlborn to discuss the possibilities with him but so far have not succeeded in reaching him.

Best regards to you both.

Sincerely,

Lee Udall

Lee Udall