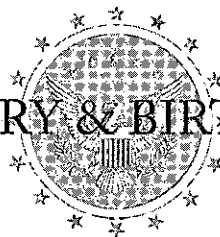


RICHARD NIXON LIBRARY & BIRTHPLACE FOUNDATION



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DONALD L. BENDETTI,
Chairman

CAROLINE L. AHMANSON

LEONORE ANNENBERG

JOHN H. BARR,
Secretary-Treasurer

TRICIA NIXON COX

FREDERICK B. DENT

JULIE NIXON EISENHOWER

KRIS ELFTMANN

ROBERT F. ELLSWORTH

GAVIN S. HERBERT

KENNETH L. KHACHIGIAN

HENRY A. KISSINGER

KATHERINE B. LOKER

CYNTHIA H. MILLIGAN

EDWARD NIXON

MAUREEN DROWN NUNN

HUBERT C. PERRY

GEORGE P. SHULTZ

DIMITRI K. SIMES,
President, The Nixon Center

J. PETER SIMON

PETE WILSON

JOHN H. TAYLOR,
Executive Director

LOIE G. GAUNT,
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

March 4, 2005

Mr. Thomas Blanton
National Security Archive
The George Washington University
Suite 701, Gelman Library
2130 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Blanton,

On behalf of the Library, thank you for your willingness to come to Whittier College's and our conference on the Vietnam War.

During conference planning, we proposed inviting keynoters such as Secretaries McNamara and Kissinger, which – besides their being headliners – would have added the policymaker's voice to our discussion. The College took the view then, and has reiterated it this week, that such figures would have added little if anything to the debate about the war in Vietnam. The Nixon Library did voluntarily submit to Whittier's vision of a more narrowly-drawn academic conference, for which I take full responsibility. After all, we had, thanks to Laura and Greg's efforts and your willingness to participate, assembled a distinguished and notable group of speakers and panelists. Unfortunately, our substantial invitation mailing and advertising, in addition to whatever Whittier was able to do to pass the word, had generated seven sign-ups by the end of last week. The budget the College and we had agreed on called for 200 paid attendees. Beyond the awkwardness for us all of a poorly-attended event, since the Library was bearing the bulk of the additional costs beyond ticket revenue, we felt we had no choice but to withdraw from the conference.

I regret any inconvenience this situation has caused you. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(The Rev.) John H. Taylor

