

April 21, 1964

Dear Admiral Nieman;

This letter is to introduce Peter Rogers, my son-in-law, to you. I would rather have come to Austin myself to talk to you, but at present I cannot get away, and since you are no doubt anxious to get the 'show on the road', as you put it, as soon as possible, I thought it best if Peter Rogers came to speak to you himself.

What he will have to say to you will come as somewhat of a surprise. He is, of course, the 'associate' to whom I have been referring in my letters, but something I have not told you is that he is in fact the author of the design. This I have kept quiet about until now since I wanted the drawing to have a completely fair appraisal: had it been known that it was by someone hitherto unknown in this country, I thought perhaps it might bias the committee against it. Peter Rogers has however a considerable reputation in England and shall I have no doubt soon have a similar one here.

He has come here as an immigrant and naturally I wish to help him off to a good start in this country. Therefore, having given considerable thought to the Austin mural myself without, I must admit, any great

inspiration, it occurred to me to suggest to Peter Rogers that he have a go and see what he could do with it. Frankly I had been on the point of turning down the job since, apart from anything else, I knew from experience what the physical effort involved consisted of and I cannot escape the fact that I am now in my sixty first year and not quite so full of bounce as I used to be!

At first I thought that Rogers might help me out as my associate, but it soon became clear that he was quite capable of taking the ball and running with it himself, and so it was that I passed it to him completely, with these designs as the result.

The designs will I hope speak for themselves. Rogers researched thoroughly before starting on them and has succeeded in producing something that seems to me to capture the very spirit of the theme. I believe him to be capable of giving you a first rate job. Certainly he has my strongest recommendation.

Yours Sincerely,

*Peter Howard*

P.S.

*I of course plan to keep an eye on the progress of the mural and will be present in Austin to supervise the beginning and give advice when and where necessary.*

*Peter Howard*