Ford Motor Company

FACTORY AND GENERAL OFFICES
DEARBORN, MICH.

ALEXANDRIA, VA. March 11, 1938.

#8.

Mr. F. L. Black,
The Edison Institute,
Dearborn, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Black:-

Your letter of March 8th, relative to the chair in which Abraham Lincoln was shot.

Writer conferred today with Mr. Pitts, of the Judge Advocate General's Office, War Department, also with Mr. J. E. Graf, Associate Director of the U. S. National Museum (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, D.C. Briefly, the chair, which had been stored at the Smithsonian and subsequently turned over to the widow of its former owner, was never on display. It is not the policy of the Smithsonian Institution to display "gruesome" objects, according to statement of Mr. Graf. He stated that even if the Museum had come into possession of the pistol which was used in the assassination of President Lincoln, it would not have been exhibited. However, am handling by letter with Messrs. Pitts and Graf, for written statement of the facts of record relative to the release and disposition of the chair. There apparently is no doubt here that you have the bona-fide article, provided, of course, it is the same chair released from custody of the Smithsonian Institution.

Yours very truly,
FORD MOTOR COMPANY,
Traffic Department.

JWC/c