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In the same letter we were informed that you would certainly want the use of the house by October 1st, 1913; that eight months must be allowed for its construction, and that, therefore, it was imperative that we should have our finished drawings and specifications in Houston by January 1st. We called the attention of our Houston office to the fact that a space of fourteen months had been consumed in discussing preliminary plans, that only six weeks were allowed us <sup>for preparing</sup> ~~for working~~ plans and specifications, and that the conditions imposed on us were absurd and practically impossible. On November 19th our Houston office wrote us acknowledging receipt of our letter of November 15th, and making amongst other statements, the following, "Your view of the situation relative to the President's House is exactly correct" X X X X  
 X X "You may reduce the cube as you see fit and knit the units more closely together". We immediately completed revised plans and sent these to Houston. They were acknowledged on November 29th, and in this letter occurred the following statement, "We wish to acknowledge the receipt of the plans for the President's house and to say that we have been over the same with Dr. Lovett and find that he is very enthusiastic concerning the changes made. He is now taking up the plans in detail with Mrs. Lovett, and as soon as we can secure the same and note minor corrections desired will return them to you by mail". In view of this statement we considered that we were authorized in putting a large force of men on the plans and going ahead without a moment's delay, anticipating only "minor corrections" in the general scheme. We were anticipating the arrival of the sketches for the proposed laboratory building at any moment; we knew that this also would have to be hurried, and we wished to get as much work done on the plans of the President's house as possible as we were also expecting several other very large projects that would have to be taken up with the office at short notice, and we wished to clear the field as much as possible before all our men were employed on

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other work. We therefore took up all the working plans of the President's house and put them through on the basis of the plans that had been submitted to you, and that our Houston office had said you were "enthusiastic" over. We worked on these for eighteen days and had all the plans, elevations and sections almost completely worked out in pencil and ready for tracing. On Saturday, December 21st we received a letter from Houston saying "Relative to the house of President Lovett we wish to say that we find that it is necessary, and are working it over now along these lines, to make the principal rooms of the first floor larger, and also we find that it is necessary, because of the size of the house, to build it of heavy frame construction inside rather than of concrete construction. We are revising these plans again with Dr. Lovett and want to settle definitely the location of all rooms and their sizes before returning the plans to you inasmuch as this revision will be final and when settled upon we will be ready to proceed at once as soon as you can complete the contract drawings."

We immediately stopped all work on the plans for the President's house; in the meantime sketches for the laboratory had arrived with instructions to push these with all possible rapidity in order that you yourself might go over them by January 1st, and also Professor Wilson; the anticipated work had come into the office and the men were transferred to the laboratory drawings, and to these new and very important projects. On Saturday, December 28th, we received a letter from our Houston office saying, "we are mailing you today plan for the President's house. You will find that it has undergone a tremendous change since the revised plan you sent us some two or three weeks ago. Each room has been gone over carefully with Dr. and Mrs. Lovett, and they have found it necessary to have the rooms ample in size, much larger than we would probably have considered it necessary, but they feel that unless they can be of this

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size "prefer not to build at this time" x x x "We have no doubt that the house can be built in Houston, exclusive of plumbing, heating, and electric work for \$60,000. to \$65,000. "

It is now December 30th, the revised plans referred to have not arrived, and we are confronted, when they do put in their appearance, with the problem of preparing an entirely new set of plans and specifications or an entirely new scheme, have these estimated, contracts let and the construction concluded by October 1st, 1913. In the meantime we are under constant pressure in the matter of the laboratory, (Professor Wilson is in the office this morning going over these plans) we have a great amount of new work where the necessities of the owners are quite as great as they are in the case of Rice Institute, we have a working force in the office of thirty-six people, with no room for more men, nor are any competent draughtsmen available in addition to those we already have. For fifteen months this house has been in the condition of preliminary sketches, and at the present writing it has not advanced one step beyond this, yet we are expected to prepare working plans for a \$60,000. house, have these plans estimated on, and the contract carried out, all in the space of nine months.

We propose to do the best we can in the matter. As soon as the revised plans arrive we are prepared to begin, even though the result will be extremely embarrassing in the case of most of our other work. If a definite scheme had been determined upon by October 1st, the final plans and specifications would have been completed by now, as conditions in the office made it possible for us to put a large force on this particular job. Now, however, conditions are very different. We have lost all the time spent on working out final plans in accordance with a revision we were told had received "enthusiastic" approval, the available