

Mrs. Hughes drops bid to buy new china

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Mrs. Harry Hughes has withdrawn a budget request for \$12,918 to buy 80 pieces of Lenox china and 141 pieces of sterling silver flatware for Government House.

In a letter to Frank C. Robey Jr., chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee reviewing the executive budget, Staff Director Ejner J. Johnson said Mrs. Hughes will seek alternate ways of replacing the missing table service.

The decision to drop the budget request came in the wake of budget officials' recommendations that departments voluntarily cut 5 percent from their proposed fiscal plans, according to Gene Oishi, the governor's press aide.

He and other sources at Government House gave no indication that Mrs. Hughes' decision to cut the proposed expense was the result of unfavorable publicity about the cost.

Mrs. Hughes was criticized for

requesting the funds for what is considered by some, including members of the General Assembly, to be an unnecessary expense while welfare and Medicaid recipients are threatened with cuts in services.

Oishi said Mrs. Hughes will attempt to obtain replacement pieces to bring the table service up to 72 place settings through "private subscriptions to raise funds..."

He said one possibility is through efforts of the Friends of Government House, a group that has been instrumental in restoring the mansion on a piecemeal basis. The group has refurbished several rooms in Government House.

To bring the table service up to 72 place settings, Mrs. Hughes needs 80 pieces of china, because only 22 full-place settings exist. Also, 141 pieces of sterling silver flatware must be purchased, including 18 regular forks, 18 knives, 29 spoons, 38 salad forks and 38 teaspoons.

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