

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “5-5-75 Senate Wives Luncheon” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Washington Star, Tuesday, May 6, 1975

Mrs. Ford Uses a Page From History

By Isabelle Shelton
Washington Star Staff Writer

Betty Ford borrowed a page from history for a White House luncheon she gave yesterday for the wives of U. S. Senators.

It was the first time Mrs. Ford had been hostess at the traditional luncheon, which comes each spring as regularly as the cherry blossom.

"One of the things I have always loved about this city is its strong sense of history, embodied in such buildings as the Capitol, this graceful old mansion and the lovely monuments," she said.

AND SHE decided to build her luncheon around a historic theme, the president's wife told her 120 guests, who were

gathered at 12 round tables in the State Dining Room.

The cloths at each table were made from cotton sheets in Wamsutta's Liberty Hall fabric, a fabric adapted from china George Washington once owned; she said. Each table had china from a different White House administration, and table favors were Steiff pewter Jefferson cups, bearing Mrs. Ford's engraved signature and filled with a holly fern.

The cups were copies of ones designed by Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president, "and the first to spend all of his years in office in the White House," Mrs. Ford said.

SOME OF America's past history was also em-

bodied in the guest list. In addition to current Senate and Cabinet wives, past Senate wives living in the area — such as Mrs. J. William Fulbright and Mrs. Eugene McCarthy — were present.

So was Mrs. Spiro T. Agnew, who presided over the Senate wives at their weekly Red cross meetings when her husband was vice president. "I'm doing very well, thank you; everything is going along fine for me," she responded to a reporter's question before turning to greet another guest.

It is possible that some of the nation's future also was present; the guest list included at least four women whose husbands were seeking or have sought the Democratic Presidential nomination,

Mrs. Henry Jackson, Mrs. Lloyd Bentsen, Mrs. Edmund Muskie and Mrs. Birch Bayh.

THE FIRST TWO said they have been busy campaigning with their husbands, both declared candidates for the 1976 race. Mrs. Bayh said she had just returned from a seven-state swing for the cancer drive.

The wife of another man some people think may run next year, Mrs. Edward Kennedy, sent regrets. Her husband's office said she is out of town.

Mrs. George McGovern, wife of the Democrats' 1972 standard bearer, also missed the lunch. She left for Cuba yesterday morning with her husband.



Mrs. Ford

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Senate Wives
Luncheon -