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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 23, 1975

DEC 24 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH  
FROM: *To:* JIM CANNON  
SUBJECT: Bicentennial Proclamation

The President indicated he would be willing to consider some kind of an important Bicentennial proclamation or message.

Bob Goldwin and two other volunteers drafted messages, which are attached.

Unfortunately, without our knowledge, Paul Theis' office also drafted a message which I did not see, and which the President recorded for New Year's day.

Unless you think otherwise, I suggest we stand on what the President recorded.

*OK*  
*Jack*



Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

*File*

THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In the year 1776, the people of our land dedicated themselves in word and deed to the principles of liberty, equality, individual dignity, and representative government. It was a hectic but heroic beginning of a process which led to the creation of a great Republic symbolizing then, as it does today, the hope of the future.

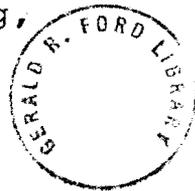
The year 1776 was a year of revolution, not merely in the rejection of colonial rule, but in the thoughtful, eloquent, and enduring expression of a government to foster and perpetuate the development of a free and independent people.

Now, two hundred years later, we have settled our continent and turned our vision to the limits of the universe. We are the richest nation in the world -- rich in our resources, rich in our creativity, rich in our strength, and rich in our people -- from our Native Americans to those who have come from every country on earth to share in the hope, the work, and the spirit of our Republic.

The challenges faced by our forebears were not only to their physical capabilities but also to their faith in the future. Their response to these challenges affirmed their deep belief that by their actions they could create a better world for themselves and those that would follow. As we enter America's third century, let us emulate in word and deed, their resolve and vision.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six as The Bicentennial Year. Let 1976 be a year of reflection, a year of sharing, and foremost, a year of achievement.

I urge all Americans to reflect, from time to time during this Bicentennial Year, on the historic events of our past, on the heroic deeds of those whose legacy we now enjoy, and on the compelling visions of those who helped shape our constitutional government.



I call upon educators, clergy and labor, business and community leaders, as well as those in the communications media, to review our history and publicize the shaping events, people, and ideas of our historic beginnings.

I call upon every man, woman, and child to celebrate the diversity of tradition, culture and heritage that reflects our people and our patrimony. Let each of us resolve to cherish and protect what we have achieved in

more

the United States of America and to build upon it in the years ahead, not by words alone, but by actions which bespeak a continuing commitment to a heritage of individual initiative, creativity, and liberty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

# # # #



*Be...  
file*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 5, 1976

*Not -  
file  
this  
quick*

TO: JIM CANNON

FROM: JOHN O. MARSH, SR.

           For Direct Reply

           For Draft Response

  X   For Your Information

           Please Advise

DRAFT/MARSH/January 24, 1976

America is in its Bicentennial Year. The countdown to Independence Day has begun.

It is appropriate for the first address that I as President should make on the Bicentennial should occur here where it all began. It is one of the ironies of history that within a few miles of this place the first permanent English settlement in the new world would be made in 1607 and that 174 years later only 20 miles away at Yorktown the American Revolution would end British colonial rule.

I am aware of the history of the Commonwealth and the heritage of Virginia. I would also point out, what I am sure this Assembly knows, is that 100 years prior to the American Revolution the colony of Virginia in a prelude to Independence overthrew its royal government and for a brief but significant period in American history asserted



its independence from the Crown, under the leadership of Nathaniel Bacon. Bacon's rebellion planted, many believe, the seeds of the American Revolution.

Knowing of Virginians' appreciation of history, I am sure that these Tercentennial events will be properly noted.

This Assembly can continuously trace its origin to 1619, the oldest Assembly in the new world. It is the oldest legislative body under a written Constitution in the western world.

The names of some of those who have served in this colonial Legislature read like a litany of American greatness: Washington, Jefferson, Henry, Lee, Mason, Randolph, Madison, Monroe.

The events that occurred in Williamsburg shaped not only America but world history. George Mason, author of the immortal Declaration of Rights, in looking back on the events that transpired here observed: "We seem to have been treading on enchanted ground." We tread today on enchanted ground.

An examination of the lives of the men of this era inescapably leads to the conclusion that the college of William and Mary played a significant role in the development and training of an enlightened leadership. William and Mary in age is second only to Harvard. The influence of all the colonial colleges on developing the ideas of the Revolution is one that should be studied and explored as we examine the Bicentennial period.



The men and women in the colonies extending along the rim of our eastern coast were pioneers in a colonial era. They faced a frontier that was an unexplored wilderness. A vast continent whose

resources and riches they could not measure nor imagine. They lived in a world of harsh reality and constant danger. They were the victims of the elements and of disease. Isolation and loneliness were their accepted lot. The West was scarcely 200 miles away, the ridges of the Allegheny Mountain, the Continent was a pawn for the power elite of Western Europe not only the British Empire but France and Spain asserted dominion over substantial parts of what are today the Continental United States. These pioneers in a colonial world who faced a wilderness of nature would become pioneers in another way they did not plan.



They became pioneers in representative government. Pioneers in the rule of law. Pioneers in individual liberty and institutional democracy. Pioneers in the role of the States as servants of the people. The discoveries of the new world would not be limited to land or resources but the freedom of speech, religion and the press. These pioneers in

representative government, in Chambers such as this, assured for us trial by jury, freedom from self-incrimination, the right to bear arms, and freedom from unlawful search and seizure.

Their exploration carried them not only across the American continent, but opened new horizons for the American spirit and opportunities for individual achievement.

These discoveries in self government which were spelled out in our Declaration were won at Yorktown and assured in our Constitution. They are as precious today as they were two centuries ago.

I submit to you we are pioneers in a modern world. Ours is a wilderness that by and large is the creation of man.

It is a wilderness of teaming urbanization and highrises with masses of population. It is a society impacted by the discovery and adaption of science and technology. Assembly lines and mass production, automation and computerized programming become pace

makers of our people. Individualism is often a casualty of the machine age.

Americans today live in the truly first modern nation of a new world. We are the first to face this wilderness of the masses. The first to deal with the impact of communication and technology not only on humanity but on the institutions of a free people.

We are pioneers in this new age.

Democracy on this planet is becoming increasingly rare. Beyond our shores representative government is not expanding; it is retreating. It can be correctly said that on the face of this globe, Americans are still the true revolutionaries.

The ideas discussed and debated at Raleigh Tavern or here in this House of Burgess or at the town hall meetings of colonial New England or at Independence Hall -- these ideas went West with the American people.

Before the golden spike was driven in Utah to link the continent by rail, we were bound to each other by the invisible links in a chain of ideas that produced governments of states, cities, counties, and towns which share a common heritage and sought to govern for the common good.

We know that we have not as yet formed the perfect Union. We are aware that we have made mistakes, but I also know that succeeding generations of Americans have formed a better Union.

The challenges we face are the challenges of a modern world. As pioneers in this new wilderness can we address our national needs, assure the public safety, defend the nation, provide the economic opportunities, fulfill the aspirations of our people, cope with science and technology, manage our resources, protect our environment within the concepts of limited government and institutional democracy?

Can a free people with representative government live and

compete - achieve national greatness and sustain world leadership - in a modern world? I believe we can. It is going to require common sense and self-restraint.

The American experiment is a constantly evolving one. It is not limited to a region or to a period of history. The gradual but unremitting expansion of freedom for all of our people has unfolded throughout our history as a Nation. It, therefore, follows that the Bicentennial should be observed in different ways across our land as people of different cultures and regions mark their respective contribution to the achievements of this Republic.

The pursuit of happiness by the participation in the American experiment and contributing to the Revolutionary concepts of limited self-government and individual liberty is an American legacy you and I share.

Washington, Franklin, Adams, Jefferson -- these giants

and their contemporaries do not belong to Virginia or Pennsylvania or Massachusetts. They belong to the ages.

And what shall posterity say of us a decade, a century, a thousand years hence. Shall some historians in another day, another age, at another place write that the American Republic, man's greatest hope for man, perished from the earth because its people were not true to the legacy of their forebearers and lacked the will to meet the challenge of their time.

I believe that of us historians shall record that this Republic and its people in a unique moment of human history shaped a new destiny. Built a new world based on law, individual achievement and human freedom, and thereby repaid in part the debt we all owe to a tiny handful of men, who with a firm reliance on the protection of a Divine Province, 200 years ago at Philadelphia, mutually pledged their lines, their fortunes, and their sacred honor that liberty might

grow old.

Let us this day resolve we shall write this story for our  
country.



*Margo Boyle will  
now attend*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON  
March 3, 1976

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CANNON

FROM: KATHLEEN RYAN *KAR.*

SUBJECT: Federal Agency Bicentennial Task Force

I attended the meeting of the Federal Agency Bicentennial Task Force today, and it was a bit more interesting and encouraging than the others have been.

Mr. Richard Hite, D.C. Bicentennial Coordination, summarized the familiar litany of projects. They are proceeding smoothly: the Great Hall of Commerce and Visitor's Center will be open on March 15; a housing information system is operative; and medical and food services have been organized. There is one major flaw -- no funding for overtime police service yet.

The Defense presentation was a typical one with slides showing the many Bicentennial activities of the Department of Defense across the nation. Dr. O'Neill of the National Archives gave us a packet of information on exhibits that the Archives has planned this year. It is "the home of 200 years of American History."

Mr. Kingston, National Endowment for the Humanities, described the projects of knowledge that the Foundation is sponsoring. An interesting one is the Courses by Newspaper in conjunction with the American Issues Forum. The course on American History and Values is being featured by 450 newspapers, and 275 universities offer credit for completion of the course. The Endowment is also doing a series of state histories which will be formally published within a few weeks. Coincidentally, the first state's history to be published is Michigan! They would like the President to sponsor and personally receive the first copy.

Ted Marrs is responsible for following up on the problems, requests and questions raised during the meeting.

Peter Fanin of OMB informed us that about \$467 million will be spent on the bicentennial by the Executive Branch.

Attachments.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

FEDERAL AGENCY BICENTENNIAL

TASK FORCE MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 1976

4:00 - 5:30 PM

The Roosevelt Room

A G E N D A

1. Opening Remarks: The Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President
  
2. District of Columbia Logistics, Parking Etc. Mr. Richard R. Hite, Chairman  
Subcommittee: D.C. Bicentennial  
Coordination
  
3. Bicentennial Activities of the Department of Defense The Honorable William I. Greener, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs
  
4. Bicentennial Activities of the National Archives Dr. James E. O'Neill  
Deputy Archivist
  
5. Bicentennial Activities of the National Endowment for the Humanities Mr. Robert Kingston  
Deputy Chairman
  
6. Closing Remarks: The Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President



JULY FOURTH WEEKEND ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. AREA

The following activities planned for the Washington, D. C. area over the July Fourth Weekend represent those of which we are aware. As you will note, some of the programs are still tentative. The Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller have agreed to co-chair the "Happy Birthday, USA!" programs.

July 2nd: The Congressional Joint Committee on the Bicentennial is working on plans for special commemorative activity. Part of that will be the opening of the 1876 Centennial Safe and the removal of its contents. Final plans are not yet made.

The Corcoran Gallery will be the location for an evening reception for official Washington honoring the States. Capitol Hill, the White House, the Embassies and other national and international leaders will be among the invited guests.

July 3rd: "Happy Birthday, USA!" has assumed the responsibility for the "American Bicentennial Grand Parade" which will take place at Noon. The parade route will start at the U.S. Capitol and proceed down Constitution Avenue to 18th Street, NW. It will consist of military units, massed colors, and possibly floats.

This evening, the American Historic and Cultural Society will conduct its "Honor America" program at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The program committee is headed by Mr. J. Willard Marriott who has secured the assistance of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and is now working with other performers and performing groups. The President and Mrs. Ford have been invited to participate. Following the gala performance, a reception will be held in the Grand Lobby and adjoining balcony. This will conclude with an aerial fireworks spectacular.

Wolf Trap Farm is also planning a special musical program with the National Symphony.



July 4th: An Interfaith Sunrise Service will be held at the Lincoln Memorial. Throughout the day, at various houses of worship, there will be numerous religious and memorial services.

The National Visitors Center will be opened.  
(The time has not yet been determined)

The Smithsonian Air and Space Museum will be opened.  
(The time has not yet been determined)

"Happy Birthday, USA!" will conduct The National Pageant of Freedom and The Official Salute to the American Bicentennial. This will take place on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Indications are that it will receive coverage of all three television networks. The Vice President of the United States will deliver a Bicentennial Address following a program of music including all the key national patriotic anthems and hymns by the Army Band and the Army Choir. Following the Vice President's Address, the band will play the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and that will be followed by an aerial and ground fireworks display.

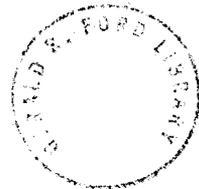
Other expected activities during the weekend will include:

- Special dinners and receptions.
- Special cultural programs.
- The Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the Mall.  
(continuing)
- The Freedom Train will be in the area. (The exact location is not yet known)
- Fireworks and musical presentations at the Sylvan Theater on the nights of July 2, 3 and 5.
- The National Archives plans to display the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution with a special ceremony.
- The National Gallery of Art will have on display, "The Eye of Jefferson".
- The Blackman's Bicentennial Exhibition (Black Artists) is being considered for July 3rd at RFK Stadium.
- A possible John Denver Concert at RFK Stadium on July 4th.



- ° A possible Jazz Program from 1:00-5:00 PM on July 5th.

The three major networks and USIA have indicated an interest to "Happy Birthday, USA!" concerning the weekend activities. USIA is bringing the top TV news anchor broadcasters from twenty-five countries to Washington for July 3 and 5. Via Satellite, these twenty-five countries will watch our activities for a total of fourteen hours during those two days.





MAR 23 1976

*Bicentennial*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

DAVE GERGEN *DS*

SUBJECT:

4th of July Celebration

You asked that I provide you with a brief memo outlining my idea for the 4th of July.

In tentative planning for the 4th of July weekend, all of the President's appearances are outside the White House and many of them are outside Washington. In my view, there should be at least one major, celebratory event here and it should be something very, very special -- something that only a President can do.

May I recommend consideration of a dinner the night of the 4th here in the White House (a Sunday evening) at which the President presents Medals of Freedom to about a dozen of the most outstanding men and women in the country and to which are invited past winners of the medal as well as other luminaries. It could be a very colorful event because about half-way through it the guests could go outside (on the balconies or on the grounds) where they could watch one of the most spectacular fireworks displays in Washington's history -- and they would have the best seats in town. I understand that several hundred thousand people may be on or around the Monument to watch the show and that the networks may carry portions of it. (If the networks are roaming free that night to celebrate the 4th, they would almost surely pick up on White House festivities.)

The most important point is that the President would be showing to the entire country what wonderfully accomplished people there are in the United States. It would be a unifying, uplifting experience for millions of people to see a President honoring the very best our country has to offer and to mix that with the patriotism and pageantry of the 4th.



We might even consider a picnic on the South Grounds for the occasion. The drawback there is that it may appear to be too elitist for those who are outside the gates.

Incidentally, you may remember that JFK once had a very memorable night at the White House when he honored all of the Americans who had won the Nobel Prize. As I recall, his comment to the guests that night was to this effect: "There hasn't been as much genius collected in this room in the White House since Thomas Jefferson used to dine here alone."





**JAMES M. CANNON, PRESIDENT FORD'S** assistant for domestic affairs and executive director of the Domestic Council, takes President's place as speaker at R.I. Independence Commemorative at Newport service in celebration of 200th anniversary of Rhode Island independence in pulpit of Trinity Church yesterday. (Daily News)

# President's aide speaks

By **CLARA F. EMERSON**

As the brave men and women who settled the American colonies were pioneers in an unexplored wilderness land and pioneers in a time of momentous social, economic and political change, so today's Americans are pioneers in a wilderness of teeming urbanization, social ferment, swift communication, economic stress and unexpected political events.

So said James M. Cannon, President Ford's assistant for domestic affairs, in addressing the 200th anniversary service at Trinity Church yesterday.

Our forebears were pioneers in representative government, the rule of law, in individual liberty, in religious freedom and institutional democracy, in the role of government as the servant of the people. Their discoveries were not limited to land or resources, but extended

to freedom of speech, of religion and of the press. Their discoveries were spelled out in the Declaration of Independence, assured in the Constitution, and have been affirmed and reaffirmed through our history. And they are as precious today as they were two centuries ago, the speaker said.

We are the pioneers in this age, the first truly modern nation of a new world, the first to deal with the impact of communication and technology not only on humanity but on the institutions of a free people, Cannon said. Beyond our shores representative government is retreating; Americans are still the true revolutionaries.

The speaker emphasized the role of religion in the country's birth, for it was the church, he said, that stood in the forefront of America's quest for liberty 200 years ago. That we are free to worship God "by whatever

name" reflects a uniquely American conception of Freedom which is at the core of our religious and political liberties.

We know ours is not yet the perfect union, we have made mistakes, but succeeding generations have advanced toward a better union. He affirmed his belief that with common sense and self-restraint, dedication and a renewed sense of purpose, our free people with representative government can live and compete, achieve national greatness and sustain world leadership, in a modern world.

Viewing the future, he said, "I believe that historians shall record that this Republic... shaped a new destiny; built a new world based on law, individual achievement and

human freedom, and thereby repaid in part the debt we all owe to a tiny handful of men... who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor that liberty might endure for all of time."

The day's celebration, a memorial to the late Rev. John W. Dorney, began with a parade of military units from the Colony House on Washington Square to the church, led by the Newport Artillery Company under Col. Arthur Newell. Also in line were the Kentish Guards and Varnum Continentals of East Greenwich and officers of the Naval War College, who were given reserved seats at the church. The Newport Concert Band played a half-hour concert before the service, led by Arthur Dennis, director.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Charles J. Minifie, rector, and the Rev. D. Lorne Coyle, assistant. The Navy Choristers, directed by Marian W. Van Slyke, sang.

Mayor Donnelly read the first lesson, and Frank Hale II, chairman of R.I. Independence Commemorative at Newport, read the second lesson. Lt. Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy, who was to have read the governor's proclamation, was not present.

A near capacity audience attended, many in colonial costumes. A reception at Honyman Hall followed, arranged by RIICAN under the chairmanship of Miss Dorothy Fillebrown.

Newport Daily News  
May 3, 1976

Other Copies:  
"Cannon Personal"



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RED CAVANEY  
GWEN ANDERSON  
TERRY O'DONNELL  
~~BOB ORBEN~~  
DOUG BLASER



FROM:

WILLIAM NICHOLSON *WNN*

SUBJECT:

The President's Participation in  
Bicentennial Activities, July 1-5

The President has approved participation in the following events in honor of the Nation's Bicentennial. Background information is attached. Please coordinate the announcement of these events with me.

Thursday, July 1

11:00 a. m.

Dedicate the National Air and Space Museum.  
The museum is located on the Mall along  
Independence Avenue between 4th and 7th Streets.

Saturday, July 3

12:00 Noon

Deliver address at the National Archives at a  
ceremony in honor of the Declaration of  
Independence.

8:30 p. m.

Honor America program at the Kennedy Center.

Sunday, July 4

7:30 a. m.

Attend early Church Service at either St. John's  
on Lafayette Square or Christ Church in Alexandria.

8:00 a. m.

Depart for Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

9:00 a. m. Greet wagonmasters at Wagon Train Encampment at Valley Forge Park and accept Pledges of Rededication which were signed by hundreds of thousands of Americans and collected by the wagon trains enroute to Valley Forge.

9:40 a. m. Depart for Philadelphia.

10:00 a. m. Special Bicentennial Program at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

12:15 p. m. Depart for New York City.

2:00 p. m. Review Operation Sail 1976 and the International Naval Review.

9:30 p. m. View Happy Birthday USA fireworks program from the Truman Balcony of the White House.

Monday, July 5

10:00 a. m. Depart for Charlottesville, Virginia.

11:00 a. m. Speak following naturalization ceremonies on the steps of Monticello, the home of President Jefferson.

cc: John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Russ Rourke  
Milt Mitler  
Ted Marrs  
Carole Farrar

