

The original documents are located in Box 67, folder “Fourth of July (1976) - Assignments to Russ Rourke” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

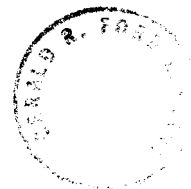
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[6/76?]

ROUGH DRAFT

- 1) What is the formal Congressional program for the events of July 1 through July 10? Ask Max to obtain this. It must be obtained in detail. Does the Congress plan a Joint Session? Do they plan a Congressional Resolution? Do they plan some other legislative act to recognize all or any part of the Bicentennial?
- 2) What will be the Congressional participation in the events which the President is involved? Does this participation include leadership of the House and Senate? If so, what leadership, and secondly, what events, if any, will the membership play a part in. Will their selection be on the basis of Congressional District interest, by virtue of service in the Bicentennial Commission, or by special designation?
- 3) On every event in which the President participates, provide a section on Congressional participation where all these questions are asked and answered.



- 4) Who is the contact in the House and in the Senate for arrangements involving the Congress? Is it a Member, is it a House or Senate leader or is it an officer of the House, i. e., the Sergeant at Arms?
- 5) Has the Chief Justice agreed to the subject set out in the James Rhoads' memo of June 3 on the Archives ceremony? Has the Speaker agreed to participate, and does he agree with his subject assignment.
- 6) Russ, I think you ought to get Jean McKee over here Monday, and we should have a planning session on the Archives ceremony. When she arrives, she should have an outline of the complete event, including the formal procession to the Archives, if there is a procession or motorcade. It is important that any such plan and outline include a press plan. Who is the official press representative for the Bicentennial events in the White House? Who is responsible

- for press at ARBA?
- 7) When will invitations be issued to participants in the Archives ceremonies?
 - 8) On page 3 of the Executive Summary, item 4 calls for participation nationally and internationally. What is being done to achieve this?
 - 9) Item 3 of the same page of the Executive Summary indicates a session of the Congress. Are arrangements being made for this session?
 - 10) As a part of the Congressional ceremonies on July 2, does the Congress plan to observe the Bicentennial adoption of the Lee Resolution?
 - 11) Who is in charge of Congressional coordination on Bicentennial events between the Executive and Legislative branches, and the Judicial branch.
 - 12) What are the theme nominations for the President's speeches



and other pronouncements and statements?

- 13) How many members of the President's immediate family will accompany him on all of the events, particularly that of 4 July.
- 14) Who will accompany the President from the White House, in addition to his physician and members of his family?
- 15) Precisely, what is it that the Wagonniers are going to do when the President is there, and what are the pledges of rededication, which have been signed. Where is a copy of one of these pledges, and how many might be reasonably expected. We need to get one of these pledges to the speechwriters immediately.
- 16) Should the President issue a national proclamation on the eve of the 4th? To whom should it be directed? What should it say? How should it be delivered?
- 17) Should the President issue the proclamation to our friends abroad? When should he issue it? What should it say? How should it be delivered?



- 18) Has there been some discussion of a prayer proclamation. Has the President been requested to issue one, and if so, what is that status. If he has not been requested to issue one, should he consider issuing one for the 4th of July?
- 19) Should the President send a written message to the Congress? What should it say? How should it be delivered? In a Joint address to both bodies, or simply in writing?
- 20) Should the President make a short address to the nation during the 4th of July weekend. If so, when should he make the address? How long should it be? If it is not on TV, should he consider a radio address?
- 21) What should the President do on the 3rd of July? Are any of the following options viable?
- a) Travel to St. Louis, and make an address at the Gateway Arch for the America East against the America West to



indicate the common heritage, whether they live

on the shores of the Atlantic or the Pacific.

b) Should he travel to Cape Canaveral to visit the

Space Exposition, which he was the principal author.

c) Should he visit the series of community Bicentennial

events in the Washington area?

d) Should he have the role in the Happy Birthday Parade,

which the Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller are

the Grand Marshalls and reviewing officers?

e) Structure some other event during the day of July 3?

22) What did President Grant do in 1876 in the way of formal

ceremonies or pronouncements? Request the Library of

Congress to give you this, and also request that Agnes Waldron

to assist. Did Grant issue a proclamation? Did he address

the Joint Session of the Congress.



23) In 1943 Franklin Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial.

This dedication marked the Bicentennial of Thomas Jefferson's birth. What did the President, in his dedication speech, say?

What other official recognition was given to this event by the Congress or by the White House?

24) One of the most significant observances that occurred was the

Bicentennial of George Washington's birth. There was a substantial interest by Congress in the early 1930's with the leadership

being taken by Congressman Bloom, who chaired the Commemoration

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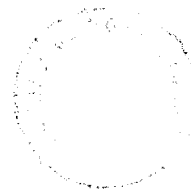
number of publications in reference to American history. Addi-

tionally the George Washington Parkway on the Virginia side of

the Potomac River was dedicated as a Bicentennial memorial. What

other official acts occurred in association with this event?

25) Associated with the above question, in 1926 the nation observed the



150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. There were official acts undertaken to observe this, and in all likelihood, the events associated with 1926 would carry over to the observance of the Bicentennial of Washington's birth, which Bicentennial event occurred a few years later. In fact, I believe Congressman Bloom was associated with both. What was the official recognition in the 1926 time frame that might shed some light, or give precedence to what we expect to do now?

- 26) Would it be helpful for the President to, in the holiday period, perform some symbolic act which marked his personal observance of the Bicentennial. In addition to the Medal of Freedom dinner, is there some other act that he might perform which would have continual meaning to the country. For example, could he plant a tree on the White House grounds, or at some other public place to mark his participation in the ceremonies? Would Valley Forge



lend itself to this type of event? Isn't there a history of President's planting trees on the White House grounds. Check with Agnes Waldron in reference to this.

27) Program for the Mars space vehicle to impact to land on Mars on the evening of July 4. Where is the one page fact sheet that can be used to describe when the vehicle was launched; from what place its speed, its load, its mission, etc. Get this from NASA. What is the contribution to science and technology made by the Mars space shot. What is the message to the American people the President should convey in reference to this enterprise.

28) The President is expected to participate in Op Sail in New York. Would he have an opportunity to pay tribute to the symbols of American liberty, represented by the French Centennial gift of the Statue of Liberty. In what way does he do this? By circling in his helicopter

the monument, or actually paying a visit to the monument?

29) Should the President adopt some momento which he uses by

way of a favor that lends itself to use by some other people.

For example, should he give to the Chairman of the

Philadelphia Committee engraved Jefferson cups and to

recipients of the Medal of Freedom.

30) Where do we stand on the wood carving of the seal for the

ceremonies honoring representatives of foreign countries

later in July? Check with Hyland on this.

31) Where is the complete program to the extent that one is

available of the sequence of events at Philadelphia on July 4.

32) Who would be the other guests?

33) What will be the Medal ceremony? Will it be a dinner, and if so,

who will be the guests in addition to the honorees and their spouses?

34) Bicentennial events will be occurring across the entire nation

during this period of time in communities large and small. They



will be occurring internationally. What should the President do to indicate both an awareness and an appreciation of these occurrences, and secondly, what sort of vicarious participation might be achieved. Is he planning to follow closely these events on television, and from time to time, comment on what he has observed in Idaho, Texas and Vermont when he is being covered, or ask questions by the media.

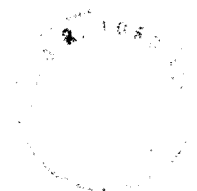
35) What does he plan to do to observe the Bicentennial as Commander-in-Chief. Shouldn't he issue an 'all-hands' message, so to speak, to American service personnel? Should he direct special ceremonies by United States military units overseas to indicate to the local populace the observance of this event by Americans.

36) What message, if any, should the President to send to Americans overseas, including civilians who are in government, and



those who are not in government posts.

- 37) On Sunday, July 4 at 2:00 p.m., there will be the nationwide bell-ringing ceremony to mark the signing of the Declaration of Independence. What statement should the President make concerning this, and how should he make it.
- 38) Someone should preview the Air & Space Museum, particularly the film that is being made in reference to that.
- 39) Does the Freedom Train arrive in Washington. Are there any ceremonies connected with Freedom Train, and then is any Presidential recognition in order, particularly in the form of a statement?
- 40) What will the Cabinet officers be doing over the weekend of the Fourth? Should there be some function here at the White House where he brings all his Cabinet members together for brief period during one of the days in question?



- 41) Should they accompany him to the ceremony at the National Archives?
- 42) Have we prepared in one place a complete list of every Presidential utterance from the first day of July through July 5? This will include speeches, proclamations, special messages, remarks, acknowledgements, etc.
- 43) Shouldn't we have Dick Hite arrange a meeting here with individuals who are responsible for public safety, to include the Chief of Police and the Military Commander, and such others as Dick feels, are necessary.
- 44) Isn't this a reasonable step that we should take to assure ourselves that this area of Bicentennial responsibilities are being addressed?
- 45) There are a number of significant events that will occur on a permanent nature should the President select some of these for the purpose of sending a personal letter. For example, in Buckingham County, Virginia, there will be a dedication of a



restored courthouse, which was designed by Thomas Jefferson.

Would a Presidential letter be in order for an event such as this, and there are countless others in different places. Check with Eliska to see what we might be prepared to do in this regard.

- 46) What does the President do on the afternoon of the 4th. Should it be suggested that this be a family time for him, perhaps he engage in his own 4th of July picnic on the White House grounds?
- 47) On the 4th of July, Tazewell, Virginia, there will be the opening of a black history and musical. This is a significant event focusing on an important sector of American society. Should the President recognize this?
- 48) On the trees on the White House ground, you will find a small, but very dignified plaque that identifies the tree. Should there be some type of small plaque with a Bicentennial insignia and the President's name, which can be presented to official ceremonies



where there is a permanent Bicentennial structure in place, or
can the President single out certain ones to give to them in the
event the list is too large to furnish to all?

- 49) Will the Valley Forge National Park bill be ready for
signing at Valley Forge? Will it be an acceptable form?

Track this closely.



June 7, 1976

50. In the proposed Phila. schedule of events for July 4th, they show a luncheon for the President from 12:30 p. m. until 2:00 p. m. Has this been turned-off? Also, they are showing a reception for the President, sponsored by the Mayor from 11:30 until 12:30, what is the status of this.
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55. Thomas Jefferson's grave is only a short distance down the road from Monticello. Should the President lay a wreath on the grave? Is he planning to go into Charlottesville and drop by the rotunda at the University of Virginia as he was invited by the President of the University of Virginia and endorsed, as I recall, by the Governor?



Given (July 4)

June 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: RUSS ROURKE
FROM: JACK MARSH

Russ, please read this and begin to undertake the assignments which it contains. Also, where others have the responsibility related to the subjects raised, task them.

Many thanks.
JOM:cb



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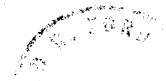
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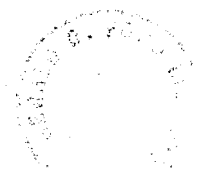
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