

The original documents are located in Box 68, folder “Fourth of July (1976) - Centennial Safe Opening” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Breen

June 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: MILT MITLER

FROM: RUSS ROURKE

Milt, please note Jack's latest memo re Centennial safe.

Further, I thought you would be interested in a copy of Max Friedersdorf's "bicentennial" memo (a response to an earlier JOM memo to Max).

See you at the next meeting.

RAR:cb



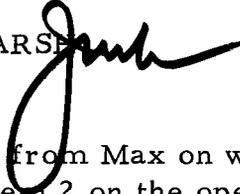
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: JACK MARSH



In reference to the attached memo from Max on what the Congress intends to do, please note item 2 on the opening of the Centennial safe. We do not show that on our schedule and if he does play a role in this, it is something we should get scheduled now.

Also, please go over this memo from Max and see what other follow-up actions are necessary.



JUN 7 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Russ-
FYI

June 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M.F.*
SUBJECT: Bicentennial

Congressional involvement in the Bicentennial events during the period of July 1-5 do not appear at this time to be extensive.

Although the Congressional recess for the Democratic National Convention does not start officially until Monday, July 5, Joel Jankowsky in the Speaker's Office believes it is likely that the Congress will recess on July 1st and not return until Monday, July 19.

Therefore, there will be a minimal of Congressman and Senators in the Capitol during the fourth of July weekend and most of them will be observing and participating in Bicentennial events in their respective districts and states.

Mrs. Boggs, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Bicentennial Committee and her staff director, Mr. Wallace Green, are both in Philadelphia today on Bicentennial business.

However, according to the Bicentennial staff on duty on the Hill today, the only events planned are:

1. Joint Resolution to reaffirm the Declaration of Independence.
2. Presidential opening of the Centennial safe, pending an acceptance of an imitation issued sometime ago to the President. This event would be scheduled for the week prior to the fourth of July on either June 29, 30 or Thursday, July 1. The steel door to the Centennial safe was opened in January and it is hoped that the President will come to the Capitol to open the inner glass door before the fourth of July.
3. There will be Congressional participation in the observance on July 2nd of the Bicentennial adoption of the Lee Resolution.



Wallace Green will be contacting me when he returns from Philadelphia later today or early on Tuesday and there may be additional information at that time on any or all of these events.

Wallace Green is the official contact for Congressional Bicentennial activities and his phone number is 225-1776.

I will give you a further update after talking to Mr. Green. It should also be noted that the unofficial People's Bicentennial Group plan to be on the Capitol grounds during the week of the fourth of July according to the Speaker's office.

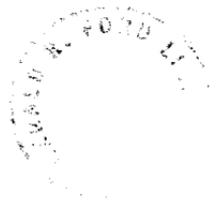


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Brient. Safe

Approved

Milt advising
Aue & Wallace
Green



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: JACK MARSH

Would you have Milt get in touch with Sue Timajero immediately, who is a staff member of the Congressional Bicentennial Committee and works for Lindy Boggs, Chairman?

Mrs. Timajero says as of this date they have still received no word from the White House as to our participation in the Centennial safe ceremonies.

Congresswoman Boggs places great emphasis on this event and they are becoming quite concerned as to Presidential participation. I would suggest that Milt go to the Hill personally and quite frankly, I expect Lindy Boggs will be in touch with the President personally to try to get something resolved on this.

cc: Max Friedersdorf

J. Bueh

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FROM: JACK MARSH

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Congresswoman Boggs places great emphasis on this event and they are becoming quite concerned as to Presidential participation. I would suggest that Milt go to the Hill personally and quite frankly, I expect Lindy Boggs will be in touch with the President personally to try to get something resolved on this.

cc: Max Friedersdorf

JOM/dl





June 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Warner

SUBJECT: Opening of Centennial Safe

Here are the latest details of the ceremony at which President Ford will open the Centennial Safe at the Capitol:

Time: 12:00 noon, Thursday, July 1, 1976

Place: Statuary Hall, U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.

Contact: Mr. Wallace Green
Staff Director
Congressional Joint Committee on Arrangements for
Commemoration of the Bicentennial
Phone: 225-1776

Principals: The President
Vice President Rockefeller
Speaker of the House
Members of Congress
Honorable John W. Warner and other selected invitees (50)

A meeting was held on Monday, June 21, 1976, in Mr. Green's office regarding this event. Taking part were representatives from the White House, Secret Service, Joint Congressional Committee, Marine Corps, Capitol Police and ARBA.

The program will be as follows:

☞ 11:50 a.m. - Music (Small group from U.S. Marine Band)
12:00 noon - Invocation - Senator Charles Percy, Chairman,
Congressional Prayer Group

Representative Lindy Boggs - Brief Remarks (3 min.)
Representative Carl Albert - Brief Remarks (3 min.)
Vice President Rockefeller - Brief Remarks (3 min.)
President Ford - Speech (about 15 min.)

Following his speech, The President and the Architect of the Capitol, Mr. George White, will open the glass door to the Centennial Safe and place a few selected items from the Safe on a table for closer viewing by the guests.



Senator Edward Brooke will close the ceremony.

Picture taking.

Program should be over before 1:00 p.m.



Dick Bain
Deputy Director, Special Events

Enclosure: Article on Centennial Safe

Copy to: Miss McKee
Capt. Hetu
Mr. Hall
Mr. Eiges

1



Congressional Joint Committee on Arrangements for Commemoration of the Bicentennial

Since its inception, the U.S. Congress has both led and been guided by the peoples of the United States. It has played and continues to play a major leadership role in the design and development of the country. It is logical, therefore, that the Congress reaffirm, renew and strengthen its links to the peoples it represents during the 200th anniversary of the founding of the nation.

To ensure that the nation's Bicentennial commemoration includes a recognition of the historic and continuing role of Congress, the Congress has established a joint committee on the Bicentennial: a committee that will provide a central focus and act as a clearinghouse for the planning and implementation of Congressional Bicentennial programs and activities.

The purpose of the Joint Committee on Arrangements for the Commemoration of the Bicentennial are threefold:

1. to develop and implement programs to inform and emphasize to the nation the role of the Congress from its historic beginnings in prerevolutionary days through 200 years of growth, challenge and change;

2. to coordinate Congressional Bicentennial activities with activities and events planned by other governmental and nongovernmental groups; and

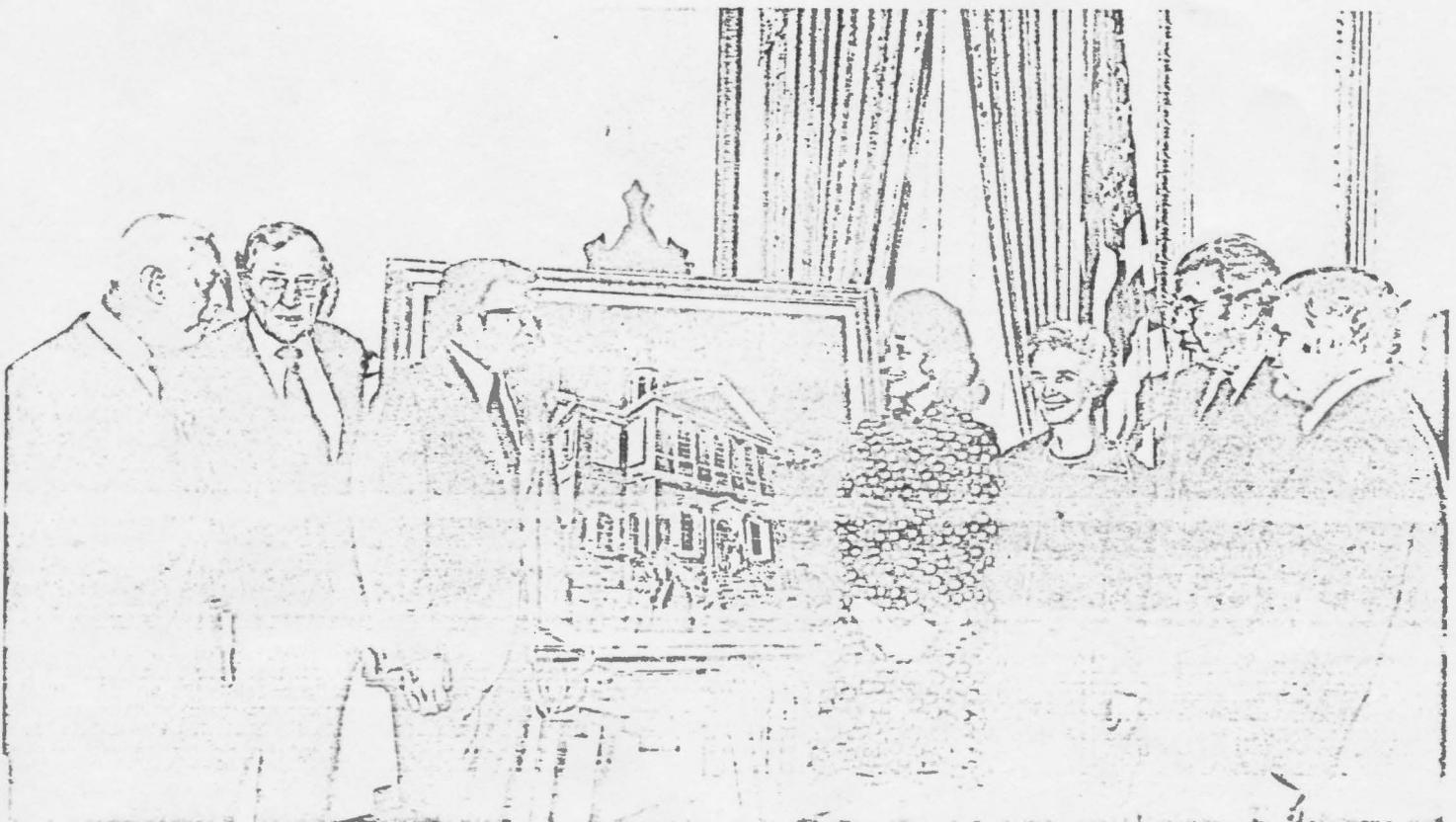
3. to recommend Congressional representation at appropriate Bicentennial ceremonies and events around the nation.

The committee, as established by action of both the House and the Senate (Senate Concurrent Resolution 41), is composed of twelve Members as follows:

Lindy (Mrs. Hale) Boggs, (D., La.), Chairman; Edward W. Brooke, (R., Mass.), Vice Chairman; Mike Mansfield, (D., Mont.); Hugh Scott, (R., Pa.); Joseph M. Montoya, (D., N. Mex.); Hubert H. Humphrey, (D., Minn.); Roman L. Hruska, (R., Neb.); Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., (D., Mass.); John J. Rhodes, (R., Ariz.); M. Caldwell Butler, (R., Va.); J. J. Pickle, (D., Tex.); Marvin L. Esch, (R., Mich.).

Centennial Safe

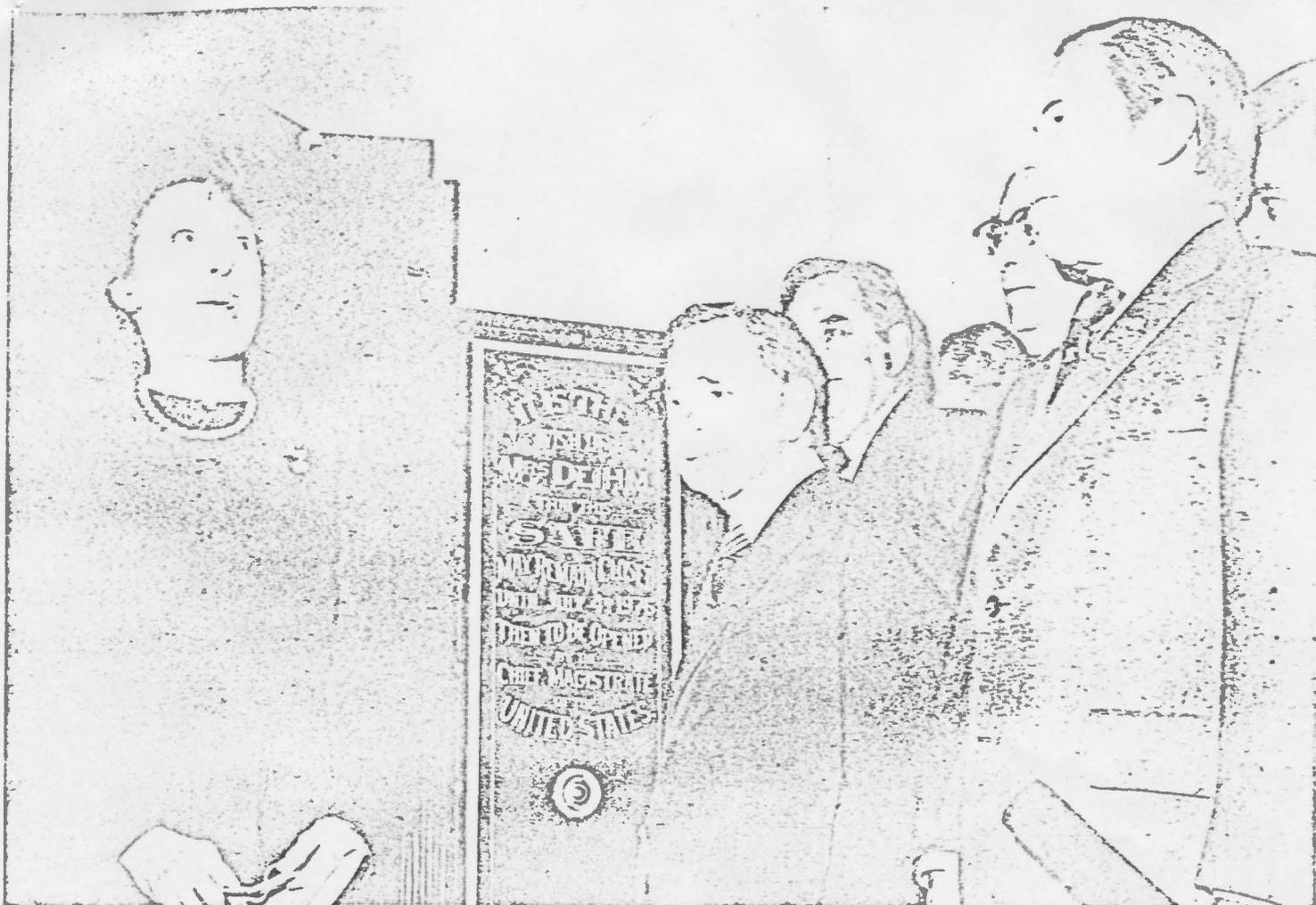
One hundred years ago, an enterprising New York publisher, Mrs. Charles F. Deihm, had an idea; to create a depository of materials gathered at the time of the United States Centennial celebration that could be unveiled 100 years later—at the Bicentennial.



Original painting by Charles McVicker of Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia, meeting place of First Continental Congress, is presented to Capitol by Fred Schwengel, president of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Locking on are Alistair Cooke, Rep. Mike McCormack, Rep. Lindy Boggs, Cecelia Kenyon Merrill Jensen and Rep. Joseph McDade.

Photo by Dev O'Neill





Prior to the opening of the Bicentennial Congress on Monday, January 19, 1976, Speaker Carl Albert is shown above in front of the six-foot centennial safe containing American memorabilia as Representative Corine C. Boggs, Chairman of the Congressional Joint Committee On Agreement of the Bicentennial and Minority Leader Representative John J. Rhodes look on. In accordance with the will of Mrs. Charles F. Deihm, a civil war widow and book publisher, this safe will remain locked until July 4, 1976 "then to be opened by the Chief Magistrate of the United States."

The idea took the form of an iron safe—50" wide, 40" deep and 64" high, fitted with two outside iron doors opening in the center. This safe was to be filled with now historic memorabilia.

The safe was first exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. Visitors to that Exposition were asked to autograph pages of large albums to be included in the safe.

At the close of the Exposition, Mrs. Deihm toured the country to gather photographs and autographs of distinguished political and business leaders, orators, clergymen and poets. These were placed inside the safe along with, among other items, the "Blue Book" containing 800,000 names of government employees; a book on temperance; a photograph of Mrs. Deihm; and a silver inkstand lined in gold with two pens of gold and pearl used to autograph the books.

Following her return from her cross-country tour, the safe was moved to the United States Capitol in December 1877 and closed on February 22, 1879.

Congress has directed the ARBA to provide for the preparation, distribution, dissemination, exhibition and sale of commemorative medals and other historical commemorative and information materials and objects which will contribute to public information awareness and interest in the Bicentennial. For lists of officially licensed products carrying the National Bicentennial Symbol or order forms for official ARBA medals, contact ARBA. Medals and other products are also being sold and licensed by State and local Bicentennial Commissions. A part of the monies raised from the licensing of commemorative items is used to support national, state, and local Bicentennial projects.

Inside the outer doors of the safe is a glass door preserving the items contained inside. Mrs. Deihm requested that the glass doors of the safe remain closed until July 4, 1976. This request appears in an inscription attached to the inside of the right hand iron door of the safe. It specifically says, "It is the wish of Mrs. Deihm that this safe may remain closed until July 4th, 1976 then to be opened by the Chief Magistrate of the United States (The President)."



JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMEMORATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

news release



LINDY (MRS. MALE) BOGGS, LA.
Chairman
EDWARD W. BROOKE, Mass.
Vice Chairman
THOMAS P. O'NEILL, JR., MASS
JOHN J. RHODES, ARIZ
M. CALDWELL BUTLER, VA
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MARVIN L. ESCH, MICH
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HUGH SCOTT, PA.
JOSEPH M. MONTROYA, N. MEX.
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, MINN
ROMAN L. HRUSKA, NEBR.

CENTENNIAL SAFE

One hundred years ago, an enterprising and forward looking New York publisher, Mrs. Charles F. Deihm, had an idea; to create a depository of materials gathered at the time of the United States Centennial celebration that could be unveiled 100 years later -- at the Bicentennial.

The idea took the form of an iron safe -- 50" wide, 40" deep, and 64" high, fitted with two outside iron doors opening in the center. This safe was to be filled with now historic memorabilia.

The safe was first exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. Visitors to that Exposition were asked to autograph pages of large albums to be included in the safe.

At the close of the Exposition, Mrs. Deihm toured the country to gather photographs and autographs of distinguished political and business leaders, orators, clergymen and poets. These were placed inside the safe along with, among other items, the "Blue Book" containing 80,000 names of government employees: a book of temperance; a photograph of Mrs. Deihm and a silver inkstand lined in gold with two pens of gold and pearl used to autograph the books.

There is disagreement among available sources as to what happened to the safe after the closing of the Centennial Exposition. An article appearing in the Washington Post in 1954 states that Mrs. Deihm, dissatisfied with the number of celebrities who had contributed autographs, toured the nation with the safe, seeking more signatures after the close of the Exposition; this piece includes excerpts from the Saratoga, New York, Daily Saratogian's article reporting the arrival of the safe. On the other hand, the official description of the safe in Compilation of Works of Art and Other Objects in the United States Capitol does not mention this tour, stating that the safe was removed directly "from Philadelphia to the United States Capitol in 1877."

All available sources agree that the safe was in the Capitol in 1878 and 1879, and was exhibited for a time in Statuary Hall. On February 22, of the latter year, the safe was sealed in a special ceremony attended by the President, Vice-President and the Cabinet. Almost immediately following the ceremony, an article appeared in the New York Tribune which impugned Mrs. Deihm's motives and accused her of attempting to extract money from Congress in payment for the safe. Though the article was subsequently retracted, Congress acted within a week to bar the exhibition in the Capitol of any arts or manufactures not the actual property of the United States Government. It is noteworthy that the safe had not been



officially accepted by the Congress at that time. It was consequently removed to a storeroom beneath the portico of the Capitol's East Front, where it remained forgotten until December 12, 1958, when extension of the Capitol necessitated its removal.

On October 15, 1974, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res 84, providing for the formal acceptance of the safe and authorizing its display during the Bicentennial celebration. The Senate passed the resolution the following day. It currently is on display in a small corridor between the first floor lobby entrance to the U. S. Capitol, East Front and the Crypt.

Inside the outer doors of the safe is a glass door preserving the items contained inside. Mrs. Deihm requested that the glass doors of the safe remain closed until July 4, 1976. This request appears in an inscription attached to the inside of the right hand iron door of the safe. It specifically says: "It is the wish of Mrs. Deihm that this safe may remain closed until July 4, 1976, then to be opened by the Chief Magistrate of the United States [The President]."

On Monday, January 19, 1976, as part of a Congressional ceremony commemorating the opening of Congress in the Bicentennial year, the outside doors were opened. Since that time the safe has been on display for public viewing.

On July 1st at a special ceremony to be held in Statuary Hall, the President of the United States, will open the glass door of the safe. Some of its contents will be removed for



restoration. Others will remain on display in the safe for the duration of the Bicentennial year.

A special committee will convene later this year to draw up guidelines for articles to be put in the safe at the end of the year when the safe will be closed and stored until the Tricentennial.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
RED CAVANEY
DICK KEISER

FROM: WILLIAM W. NICHOLSON *WUN*

SUBJECT: Approved Presidential Activity

Please take the necessary steps to implement the following and confirm with Mrs. Nell Yates, ext. 2699. The appropriate briefing paper should be submitted to Dr. David Hoopes by 4:00 p.m. of the preceding day.

Meeting: Participate in the Opening of the Centennial Safe

Date: Thurs., July 1, '76 Time: 12:00 p.m. Duration: 20 mins.

Location: U. S. Capitol, Hall of Statues

Press Coverage:

Purpose:

cc: Mr. Cheney
Mr. Hartmann
Dr. Connor
Dr. Hoopes
Mr. Nessen
Mr. Jones
Mr. Smith
Mr. O'Donnell
Mrs. Yates
Col. Riley
Mr. Orben
Mrs. Gemmell
Dr. Marrs
Mr. Mitler



PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT OPENING OF CENTENNIAL SAFE, JULY 1, 1976

I am honored to open this historic Centennial safe.

It contains many items of interest to us today as we celebrate the completion of our second century. But it symbolizes much more than a valuable collection of mementos. It symbolizes something about the United States of America that is so mighty and so inspiring that it cannot be locked up in a safe. I am talking about the American spirit.

When this safe was sealed, Americans look forward to the future -- to this year and to this date. There was no doubt in their minds that a President of a free government would participate today in a ceremony here, in the United States Capitol Building. Just as American men and women 200 years ago looked to the future, those who sealed this safe 100 years ago looked to the future. So it is with today's Americans. But there is no safe big enough to contain the hopes and aspirations and capacities of our people.



Our real national treasure does not have to be kept under lock and key in a safe or a vault. America's wealth is not in material objects but in our great heritage, our freedom, and in our belief in ourselves.

A century ago, the population of the United States numbered 40 million. Today, we have more than five times as many ~~people~~. But the growth of our population has not lessened our devotion to the same principles that inspired Americans in 1776 and 1876.

In 1876 our immense wealth, both natural and inventive, first commanded worldwide attention. We grew, from coast to coast, in greater industrial and agricultural development than humanity had ever known.

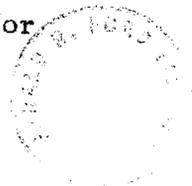
In 1876 America was still emerging from a terrible war between the states. A lesser people might have been unequal to the challenge.



But 1976 finds the confidence of 1876 validated. Today, there is equality of opportunity, with liberty and justice for all of our citizens in every corner of America. There is prosperity for our Nation and peace and progress for our people.

We look back to the evening of July 4, 1776. It was then, after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, that the Continental Congress resolved that Franklin, Adams, and Jefferson begin work on a seal as a national symbol. We are all familiar with the front of the great seal. But the reverse side is today especially instructive. It depicts a pyramid which is not completed and a single eye gazing out radiantly. The unfinished pyramic represents the work that remains for Americans to do. The eye symbolizes the inspiration available to us, if we would only look within -- even as we today look within this historic safe.

Though we may differ as Americans have throughout the past, we share a common purpose. It is the achievement of a future in keeping with our glorious past. The American republic provides for



continued growth through a convergence of views and interests. But that growth must be spiritual as well as material.

As we look inside this safe, let us look inside ourselves.

Let us look into our hearts and hopes.

It is up to every individual now to open his or her own inner resources in a quest for a gratifying future society in which Americans will live and love and build.

We start today a new century, a century of the individual, to give meaning to our national life -- and to give meaning to our lives as individuals. Let us look inside ourselves to unleash the God-given treasures stored within. And let us look outside ourselves to the needs of our families, our friends, our communities, our Nation, and our moral and spiritual consciousness.

I will now open the safe.

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~~March~~
March

REMARKS AT OPENING OF CENTENNIAL SAFE

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1976



I AM HONORED TO OPEN THIS HISTORIC CENTENNIAL SAFE.

IT CONTAINS MANY ITEMS OF INTEREST TO US TODAY AS WE

CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF OUR SECOND CENTURY. BUT IT

SYMBOLIZES MUCH MORE THAN A VALUABLE COLLECTION OF MEMENTOS.



IT SYMBOLIZES SOMETHING ABOUT THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA THAT IS SO MIGHTY AND SO INSPIRING / THAT IT CANNOT BE
LOCKED UP IN A SAFE. I MEAN THE AMERICAN SPIRIT.

WHEN THIS SAFE WAS SEALED, AMERICANS LOOKED FORWARD
TO THE FUTURE -- TO THIS YEAR OF 1976.



THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN THEIR MINDS THAT A PRESIDENT OF A FREE
GOVERNMENT WOULD PARTICIPATE IN A CEREMONY HERE, IN THE
UNITED STATES CAPITOL BUILDING. JUST AS AMERICAN MEN AND
WOMEN 200 YEARS AGO LOOKED TO THE FUTURE, THOSE WHO SEALED
THIS SAFE 100 YEARS AGO LOOKED TO THE FUTURE. SO IT IS
WITH TODAY'S AMERICANS. BUT THERE IS NO SAFE BIG ENOUGH TO
CONTAIN THE HOPES, ENERGIES AND ABILITIES OF OUR PEOPLE.



OUR REAL NATIONAL TREASURE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE KEPT
UNDER LOCK AND KEY IN A SAFE OR A VAULT. AMERICA'S WEALTH
IS NOT IN MATERIAL OBJECTS BUT IN OUR GREAT HERITAGE,
OUR FREEDOM, AND IN OUR BELIEF IN OURSELVES.



A CENTURY AGO, THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES
NUMBERED OVER 40 MILLION. TODAY, WE HAVE ABOUT FIVE TIMES
AS MANY. BUT THE GROWTH OF OUR POPULATION HAS NOT LESSENERD
OUR DEVOTION TO THE PRINCIPLES THAT INSPIRED AMERICANS IN
1776 AND 1876.



IN 1876 OUR IMMENSE WEALTH, BOTH NATURAL AND
INVENTIVE, COMMANDED WORLDWIDE ATTENTION. WE GREW
FROM COAST TO COAST, IN GREATER INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT THAN HUMANITY HAD EVER KNOWN.



IN 1876 AMERICA WAS STILL EMERGING FROM A TERRIBLE
CIVIL WAR. A LESSER PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE BEEN UNEQUAL TO THE
CHALLENGE. BUT 1976 FINDS THE CONFIDENCE OF 1876 CONFIRMED.
TODAY, THERE IS FAR GREATER EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, LIBERTY
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL OF OUR CITIZENS IN EVERY CORNER OF AMERICA.
THERE IS RISING PROSPERITY FOR OUR NATION AND PEACE AND PROGRESS
FOR OUR PEOPLE.

WE LOOK BACK TO THE EVENING OF JULY 4, 1776.

IT WAS THEN, AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE, THAT THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS RESOLVED THAT
FRANKLIN, ADAMS, AND JEFFERSON BEGIN WORK ON A SEAL
AS A NATIONAL SYMBOL. WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE
FRONT OF THE GREAT SEAL.



BUT THE REVERSE SIDE, WHICH ALSO APPEARS ON EVERY DOLLAR
BILL, IS TODAY ESPECIALLY INSTRUCTIVE. IT DEPICTS A
PYRAMID WHICH IS NOT COMPLETED AND A SINGLE EYE GAZING
OUT RADIANTLY. THE UNFINISHED PYRAMID REPRESENTS THE
WORK THAT REMAINS FOR AMERICANS TO DO.

THE LATIN MOTTO BELOW IS FREELY TRANSLATED "GOD HAS

FAVORED OUR UNDERTAKING." TWO HUNDRED YEARS LATER,

WE KNOW HE HAS.



THOUGH WE MAY DIFFER, AS AMERICANS HAVE
THROUGHOUT THE PAST, WE SHARE A COMMON PURPOSE.
IT IS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A FUTURE IN KEEPING WITH OUR
GLORIOUS PAST. THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC PROVIDES FOR
CONTINUED GROWTH THROUGH A CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS AND
INTERESTS. BUT THAT GROWTH MUST BE SPIRITUAL AS WELL
AS MATERIAL.

AS WE LOOK INSIDE THIS SAFE, LET US LOOK INSIDE
OURSELVES. LET US LOOK INTO OUR HEARTS AND HOPES.

ON SUNDAY WE START A NEW CENTURY, A CENTURY OF
THE INDIVIDUAL. WE HAVE GIVEN MEANING TO OUR LIFE AS
A NATION. LET US NOW WELCOME A CENTURY IN WHICH WE
GIVE NEW MEANING TO OUR LIVES AS INDIVIDUALS. LET US
LOOK INSIDE OURSELVES TO UNLEASH THE GOD-GIVEN TREASURES
STORED WITHIN.

AND LET US LOOK OUTSIDE OURSELVES TO THE NEEDS OF
OUR FAMILIES, OUR FRIENDS, OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR
NATION, AND OUR MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS.

I WILL NOW OPEN THE SAFE.

END OF TEXT

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
CENTENNIAL SAFE OPENING CEREMONY

STATUARY HALL
THE CAPITOL

12:13 P.M. EDT

Senator Mike Mansfield, Mr. Speaker, Senator Scott, Senator Brooke, Congresswoman Boggs, distinguished Members of the House and Senate, ladies and gentlemen:

Obviously, I am deeply honored to have the opportunity this afternoon to open this historic centennial safe. It contains many items of interest to us today as we celebrate the completion of our second century. But, it symbolizes much more than a valuable collection of mementoes -- it symbolizes something about the United States of America that is so mighty and so inspiring that it cannot be locked up in a safe. I mean the American spirit.

When this safe was sealed, Americans looked forward to the future, to this year of 1976. There was no doubt in their minds that a President of a free government would participate in a ceremony here in the United States Capitol Building.

Just as American men and women 200 years ago looked to the future, those who sealed this safe 100 years ago also looked to the future.

So it is today with Americans, but there is no safe big enough to contain the hopes, the energies, the abilities of our people. Our real national treasure does not have to be kept under lock and key in a safe or in a vault. America's wealth is not in material objects but in our great heritage, our freedom and our belief in ourselves.

A century ago, the population of the United States numbered over 40 million. Today, we have more than five times as many. But the growth of our population has not lessened our devotion to the principles that inspired Americans in 1776 or 1876.

In 1876, our immense wealth, both natural and inventive, commanded worldwide attention. We grew from coast to coast in greater industrial and agricultural development than humanity had ever known.

MORE

In 1876, America was still emerging from a terrible fraternal war. A lesser people might have been unequal to the challenge, but 1976 finds the confidence of 1876 confirmed. Today, there is far greater equality of opportunity, liberty and justice for all of our citizens in every corner of America. There is rising prosperity for our Nation and peace and progress for our people.

We look back to the evening of July 4, 1776. It was then, after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, that the Continental Congress resolved that Franklin, Adams and Jefferson begin work on a seal as a national symbol. We are all familiar with the front part of that great seal. But the reverse side, which also appears on every dollar bill, is especially instructive. It depicts a pyramid which is not completed and a single eye gazing out radiantly. The unfinished pyramid represents the work that remains for Americans to do. The Latin motto below is freely translated: "God has favored our undertaking."

Two hundred years later, we know God has. Though we may differ as Americans have throughout the past, we share a common purpose. It is the achievement of a future in keeping with our glorious past. The American Republic provides for continued growth through a convergence of views and interests, but that growth must be spiritual as well as material.

As we look inside this safe, let us look inside ourselves. Let us look into our hearts and into our hopes.

On Sunday, we start a new century, a century of the individual. We have given meaning to our life as a Nation. Let us now welcome a century in which we give new meaning to our lives as individuals. Let us look inside ourselves to unleash the God-given treasures stored within. And let us look outside ourselves to the needs of our families, our friends, our communities, our Nation and our moral and spiritual consciousness.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 12:20 P.M. EDT)

