

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

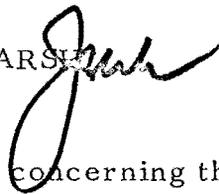
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: JACK MARSH 

Below follow a number of questions concerning the Bicentennial, in particular the period July 1-5. I would greatly appreciate your checking on these for me as quickly as possible.

- What is the formal Congressional program for the events of July 1-5? I need this 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?
- 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?
- On every event in which the President participates, provide a section on Congressional participation where all these questions are asked and answered.



- 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?
- As a part of the Congressional ceremonies on July 2, does the Congress plan to observe the Bicentennial adoption of the Lee Resolution? There will be a ceremony at the National Archives in connection with the Declaration of Independence in which the Speaker will be a participant.
- Who is in charge of Congressional coordination on Bicentennial events between the Executive and Legislative branches, and the Judicial branch?
- The Valley Forge National Park bill is slated for Senate consideration today, June 7th. There is a possibility that McClure will offer an amendment. What is that amendment? and, can we live with it?



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June 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: TED MARRS
MILT MITLER

FROM: JACK MARSH

Precisely, what is it that the Wagoniers are going to do when the President is there? 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.



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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.

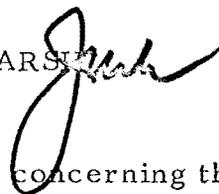


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June 8, 1976

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.

JOM/dl



JUN 7 1976

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JUN 3 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M.F.*
SUBJECT: Congressional Participation in the Bicentennial

I have talked to Wallace Green, Staff Director for the Joint Congressional Committee of the Bicentennial and he had some further information concerning Congressional observance of the Bicentennial.

1. Congress is still extremely interested in the President participating in the opening of the Centennial safe and will move the safe to statuary hall if the President decides to participate.
2. There is no Joint Session of Congress planned but on Friday, July 2, during independent sessions in the House and Senate the Congress hopes to approve the Joint Resolution endorsing a reaffirmation of the Declaration of Independence.
3. The Speaker will participate at 9 P. M. on the evening on Friday, July 2, during the ceremony at the National Archives relating to the Declaration of Independence. The Speaker has committed to participate only if the President attends.

On Sunday, July 4, the Congress is also planning an open house for the general public at the U. S. Capitol between 12 noon and 4 P. M. Punch and cookies will be served to the public, the entire East Front of the Capitol will be closed off to create a 18th century setting; revolutionary costumes will be worn by participants and 18th century crafts and arts will be demonstrated and exhibited; there will be music provided during the event. This program is in the final planning stages and awaits the approval of the Rules Committee which is expected soon.



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