

The original documents are located in Box 11, folder “12/9/76 - Congressional Ball” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Sen. and Mrs. Strom Thurmond



Sen. and Mrs. Claiborne Pell



—Washington Star Photographer Walter Oates

Carolers from Mary Mount College and 19th St. Baptist Church are greeted.

Political Battles Out the Window

Adversaries Break Bread Together at White House Party for Legislators

By Isabelle Shelton
Washington Star Staff Writer

Watching them dance up a storm at the White House last night, it was hard to believe that Congress and President Ford are locked in grim combat on several issues, at least one of which — the tax bill — comes to a head today when Congress votes whether to override the President's veto.

The Ford Christmas Ball for Congress was an unmitigated success as a social event. Whether any minds were changed in the tax bill, energy bill, and other cru-

cial matters that are coming to a head as Congress is about to go home for Christmas was not as clear.

FORD STARTED OFF the evening by welcoming his guests from a stage in the East Room, recalling that "the old place trembled a long time" after the then-new Ford administration gave its first Christmas party for Congress last year, and he thought it "a great tradition to have the legislative and executive branches get together on an occasion like this."

Agreeing with the President, Rep. Pete McCloskey, R-Calif. told friends,

"I think its good to get together in friendship. We've been beating each other's brains out for the past four years," McCloskey added that he believes Ford has been "doing a good job but I can't persuade my constituents of that."

Ford invited everyone to dance to the very tuneful rhythms of New York pianist-bandleader Mike Carney, and dance they did. The band played non-stop for four hours and many of the legislators obviously enjoyed themselves.

See PARTY, C-3

The Washington Star

Portfolio

• Amusements

SECTION C

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1975

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1976

D1



By Harry Naitchayan—The Washington Post

at last night's White House gathering, from left, First Lady Betty Ford; former Speaker of the House John McCormack; Rep. Carl Albert; Sen. Mike Mansfield; Sen Hugh Scott and President Ford.

A Farewell to Friends on the Hill

By Donnie Radcliffe

Gerald Ford said good-bye last night to nearly 400 men and women of Congress, most of them his colleagues on the Hill when Richard Nixon started him on the way to the Oval Office.

"It's a great institution, the Congress—Betty and I personally served there almost 26 years and we don't remember any more enjoyable time of our life," the President said in his farewell remarks to a throng gathered in the East Room.

"We missed it and we miss it now . . . we'll be thinking of you and wishing you the very best."

It was a subdued Ford, if a smiling one, who had summoned from the crowd to stand beside him three of the principal leaders of the Congress

and a former Speaker of the House, John McCormack, who came from Boston for the occasion.

"Those who didn't serve with him don't know how tough he could be, to Democrats and Republicans," Ford said of the 84-year-old Democrat who was Speaker for years before he retired in January, 1971.

McCormack appeared to be touched by the attention and though he steered clear of making a speech, his once familiar brusque Boston accent drew a laugh from the crowd when he said, "It's only in America that this could happen."

Since the Congress and the President last met under the mistletoe here a year ago, Ford, once the confident candidate, had become the dis-

See WHITE HOUSE, D3, Col. 3



Pls Pres. + Mrs. Ford will host
a Christmas Ball for Members
of Congress on Thursday, Dec. 9,
at 9 P.M. - It is black-tie and
will be held on the State
Floor of the St. H.

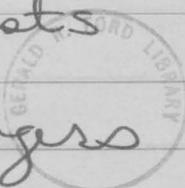
Approx 1000 guests are expected
etc.

Entertainment - Mike Carney
several

255 2/1
Pres + BF
Caroling
table Dec. -
(35-40
people)

South Portico for guests
Univ. of Md Chamber Singers

25 - 26 former
choreo. Pres. in Alex.
from church
Caroling - St Immanuel Church - On -
the Hill
East Wing for arrivals there



For Immediate Release
~~Friday, December 12, 1975~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a Christmas Ball for Members of Congress on Wednesday, December 17 at 9:00 PM. It is black-tie and will be held on the State Floor of the White House.

Approximately 1,000 guests are expected. Included in the guest list are members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, Cabinet members and senior White House staff.

Entertainment will be by New York pianist-orchestra leader Mike Carney, who will provide music for dancing in the East Room. Mr. Carney has performed at the White House twice before. A light buffet will be served in the State Dining Room and the Marine Dance Combo will provide music in the Grand Hall.

include
Table coverings will utilize the overall "Old Fashioned Childrens Christmas" theme of the White House Christmas decor this year. Tables will be draped with red cloths topped with patchwork fabric. The buffet table centerpieces will be Santa Claus and the Weathervane Raindeer (donated from Colonial Williamsburg) with Christmas greens and holly. Arrangements on the cabaret tables in the dancing area will consist of hurricane lamps surrounded by mixed greens and holly.

#

Press coverage details furnished separately



830-920 equip in E Rm.
930 - Staircase
945 - Report



FROM THE DESK OF

Sally Quenneville

→ Mutt - 6 ropes

→ Pool - Newswk

Carrollers lost
Star-writer - Isabelle
Netwk

- Lights

- Ropes + Stance (Stage?)



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WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
MEMO	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER NOTES FROM EVENT	12/9/76	C

FILE LOCATION WEIDENFELD FILES. BOX 11. DAILY EVENTS FILE

FOLDER: 12/9/76 CONGRESSIONAL BALL

JJO
10/24/16

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 12356 governing access to national security information.
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Capraro - high neck long sleeves
gold brocade w/ gold thread

belt

(pleated to hips)

& falls to floor

dk brown mink around sleeves



FACT SHEET
Mrs. Ford's Office

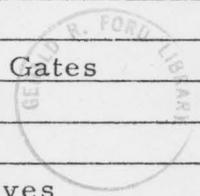
Event CHRISTMAS BALL
Group Members of Congress and Spouses
DATE/TIME Thursday, Dec. 9, 1976 9:00 p.m.
Contact Pat Howard Phone 2927
Number of guests: Total approx. 750 Women x Men x Children --
Place State Floor
Principals involved President and Mrs. Ford
Participation by Principal yes (Receiving line) no
Remarks required Welcoming Remarks
Background --

REQUIREMENTS

Social: Guest list yes - Social Entertainments Office will distribute guest list.
Invitations yes Programs no Menus no
Refreshments yes - buffet, champagne and mixed drinks
Entertainment Dancing
Decorations/flowers yes
Music yes
Social Aides yes
Dress Black Tie Coat check yes
Other -- Theatre & DRR
Press: Reporters TO BE RESOLVED
Photographers _____
TV Crews _____
White House Photographers yes Color yes Mono. --
Other --
Technical Support: Microphones yes PA Other Rooms no
Recording yes
Lights no
Transportation cars -- enter thru East Exec. Ave. and SW Gates
Parking E. Exec. Avenue and South Grounds
Housing --
Other -- (Risers, stage, platforms) yes

Project Co-ordinator Pat Howard Phone 2927

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.



For Immediate Release
Wednesday, December 17, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Knowlton
3

Phurs 12/9/76

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a Christmas Ball for Members of Congress on ~~Wednesday~~, December 17 at 9:00 PM. It is black-tie and will be held on the State Floor of the White House. *+ former mbrs.*

Approximately 1,000 guests are expected. Included in the guest list are members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, Cabinet members and senior White House staff.

Orchestra

*Several
50 or
more
at 7.*

Entertainment will be by New York pianist-orchestra leader Mike Carney, who will provide music for dancing in the East Room. Mr. Carney has performed *at the White House twice* before. A light buffet will be served in the State Dining Room and the Marine Dance Combo will provide music in the Grand Hall.

Table coverings will utilize the overall "Old Fashioned Childrens Christmas" theme of the White House Christmas decor this year. Tables will be draped with red cloths topped with patchwork fabric. The buffet table centerpieces will be Santa Claus and the Weathervane Raindeer (donated from Colonial Williamsburg) with Christmas greens and holly. Arrangements on the cabaret tables in the dancing area will consist of hurricane lamps surrounded by mixed greens and holly.

There will be two groups caroling as guests arrive. The 19th Street Baptist Church carolers will be singing outside the entrance to the Diplomatic Reception Room. "The Travellers," from Mount Vernon College will be singing in the East Wing Hall.

Carney donated tenest money for P.

#

~~Press coverage details furnished separately~~

*together Press
Mike Carney
in addition
partially
informed
sources*

*Cons. Ball
buffet table*



*ABG
282*

For immediate release
Friday, Dec. 13, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a Christmas Ball for members of Congress on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 9 p.m. It is black tie and will be held on the State Floor of the White House.

g
ce
About ¹⁵⁰⁰ 900 guests are expected. Included in the guest list are members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, Cabinet members, senior White House staff and congressional liaison aides at the White House.

Entertainment will be by New York pianist-orchestra leader Mike Carney, who will provide music for dancing in the East Room. A light buffet will be served in the State Dining Room and the Marine Dance Combo will provide music in the Grand Hall.

Table coverings will utilize the overall ~~quilt hand craft~~ ^{old fashioned children's} theme of the White House Christmas decor this year. Tables will be draped with red cloths topped with patchwork fabric, which has been given to the White House by ~~Papiers Points~~, a ~~fabric shop~~ in New York. The material is a specially screened cloth in a red and green pattern called "Friendship Train and Clover."

Floral arrangements will be in 3-foot high gold genie baskets and will consist of red carnations and ~~holly~~, ~~oregon cedar~~ and incense cedar. Arrangements on the cabaret tables in the dancing area will consist of hurricane lamps surrounded by mixed greens and holly.

Buffet
{ Candies
& Santa Claus
w/ green
& holly

For details on press coverage, please call 456-6269 or check schedule on President's press office bulletin board.



Congressional
Ball

1093 possible
attendees as of
Dec. 5, 1975



Cong. Ball

- # 1000

- menu Buffet

- entertainment - Mike Carney ^{orchestra}
same as last yr
Mrs Ford reg.

Tables?
Maria

- decor ~~State + East P.M.~~
~~tables & Santa Claus (woodcarving)~~
Linda

Time 9-12⁰⁰

Black Tie

Carolers? Maria

fruit arrangements
w/ the Wm.
motif

Senate
Congress
Cabinet
few W.H.



So carry out
Wms. theme

Invoices out
for

- black tie
- menu?
- no dinner
- 900-12^{50B}

Mike Cassey
Mrs. F's request *same as last yr's*



Honoring

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives
and Mrs. Albert*

*The Majority Leader of the United States Senate
and Mrs. Mansfield*

*The Minority Leader of the United States Senate
and Mrs. Scott*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CHRISTMAS BALL
FOR
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

December 9, 1976
9:00 p. m. - 12:00 midnight

Dress: Black tie . . . long dresses for the ladies

Schedule of
Events:

- 8:45 p. m. Your guests will arrive through the Diplomatic Reception Room and the East Wing and will be escorted to the State Floor.
- The University of Maryland Chamber Singers will be singing Christmas carols outside the entrance to the Diplomatic Reception Room as your guests arrive. A second group, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Choir will be singing in the East Wing Hall for your guests who will arrive through the East Gate.
- 9:25 p. m. The carolers will be invited into the west end of the Ground Floor Hall which will be partitioned from the remainder of the Ground Floor Hall. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.
- 9:30 p. m. You and Mrs. Ford will be escorted via elevator to the west end of the Ground Floor Hall and greet the two groups. The University of Maryland Chamber Singers will number 46 people, and the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Choir will number 25 people.
- 9:35 p. m. You and Mrs. Ford will bid farewell to the groups and will be escorted to the Family Quarters via elevator.



9:40 p. m.

You and Mrs. Ford will descend the Grand Staircase ... pause at the foot of the staircase for photographs ... proceed to the Grand Hall facing the East Room ... pause for announcement.

You and Mrs. Ford will proceed into the East Room to the dance band where a microphone will be positioned. You will welcome your guests and introduce Mr. Michael Carney and his orchestra.

After you and Mrs. Ford are photographed with the Michael Carney Orchestra, you will join your guests for dancing.

NOTE: Buffet and mixed drinks will be served to your guests in the State Dining Room.

You and Mrs. Ford will bid farewell to your guests and return to the Family Quarters.

NOTES:

- Guest list is attached.
- A Marine Dance Combo will be playing in the Grand Hall.
- A Marine Harpist will be playing in the Diplomatic Reception Room.
- Military Social Aides will be present.
- White House photographer will be present.
- There will be press coverage.



UP-033

(WHITE HOUSE BALL)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD WAS KISSED UNDER THE MISTLETOE, THE FIRST LADY DID THE CHARLESTON AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FORGOT THEIR WARS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AT THE GALA CHRISTMAS BALL.

POLITICAL DETENTE WAS REACHED ON THE WHITE HOUSE DANCE FLOOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT AS THE FORDS HOSTED A BLACK-TIE PARTY FOR CONGRESS -- A TRADITION REVIVED LAST YEAR WHEN, FORD RECALLED, "THE OLD PLACE TREMBLED AND SHOOK A LONG TIME AFTER THAT EVENING."

NEARLY 1,000 GUESTS, INCLUDING CABINET MEMBERS AND OTHER SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, THROGGED THROUGH STATE ROOMS OF THE EXECUTIVE MANSION SIPPING CHAMPAGNE AND NIBBLING FRUITCAKE AT THE FIRST BIG HOLIDAY PARTY OF THE SEASON.

"IT'S AN EVENING OF FUN BUT ALSO HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE," SAID FORD AS HE WELCOMED HIS GUESTS IN THE GLITTERING EAST ROOM. "THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SEASON IS TO CELEBRATE A GREAT ANNIVERSARY -- AN ANNIVERSARY OF LOVE, TOGETHERNESS AND ALL THE THINGS WE STRIVE FOR ALL YEAR."

UPI 12-18 10:02 AES

PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD HOST CHRISTMAS BALL (BLACK TIE) FOR
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, WHITE HOUSE, 9:00 P.M.
UPI 12-16 02:38 PES

