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Sept. 2, 1976

JWR

SUBJECT: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND WHITE HOUSE BUDGET.Background

Some questions arose concerning White House construction and maintenance budget items being involved in the President's request for supplemental appropriations for expanding and improving the National parks. A Star reporter was given a budget readout of National Park Service projects unfunded in the D.C. Metropolitan area. This readout included three White House projects among the 36 listed, and there were immediate questions as to whether the President was including White House maintenance in his request for more park funds.

Guidance

Of course, the White House maintenance projects are not included in the funds requested by the President for expanding and improving the national parks system. The National Park Service is responsible for the maintenance of the White House and does request funds for this work annually, but the President's request for funds for the park system did not apply to that at all-- it applied only to parks. The Park Service can detail the D.C. area park projects which might be benefited by the President's program.

FYI: (AND FOR USE IF DESIRED). The three projects for White House maintenance listed among the 36 D.C. area projects unfunded include:

- 1) \$50,000 for installation of a fire detection system in high-hazard areas such as workshops and storage rooms. This, contrary to the Park Service report has been funded, and work is underway on the system.
- 2) Improve the air conditioning system in the Executive Residence.
- 3) Improve the electrical system in the Executive Residence.

The latter two projects have received an appropriation of \$1,209,000. for FY '77, and an additional \$700,000. has been requested for FY'78.

The present systems were installed in the Truman restoration (1948-52) and badly need upgrading. The Parks Service had requested these funds in FY '74, '75 and '76, before finally receiving them in '77 and , hopefully, in '78.