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Jan. 18, 1975

[1-26-75]

Pres. Ford at National Press club Inaugural, then to Kennedy Center for showing of film: "City Out of Wilderness: Washington", given by U. S. Capitol Historical Society to Bi-Centennial Commission for showing to visitors at National Visitors Center, Union Station.

At press club, President seemed to enjoy swearing in of William Broom of Ridder Publications as new president. Ford looked at script, aping his State of the Union, and broke up, laughing with Mrs. Broom. Ford to Broom: "Will you swear..with your left hand on this copy of the First amendment?"

Broom said it was the first time in six years that a president had been in the club and he hoped he would come often--good for relations.

Broom then suggested that the president meet some "of our members" and Ford went through crowd shaking scores of hands.

(At start, Pool reporters and Photog got in freight elevator which stopped.) --0--

Mrs. Ford, wearing evening suit, long, black, with metallic thread and white satin blouse and pearls under black jacket, had gone ahead of President to meet with the national advisory board of ^{She is co-chair person.} Our Capitol: Freedom Speaks Campaign. This was closed to the Press. President joined here there. Apparently Society had asked that pool be kept out. Meeting with the Fords there, sitting ^{near} them in box and on platform with them were: Co-Chairman Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Clare Boothe Luce, Jane Marilley, Ernest A. Hayes, ~~Felix~~ Felix DeWeldon, Knight Kiplinger, representing his father, Austin Kiplinger, John Warner, administrator, Bi-Centennial Commission, and former Cong. Fred Schwengel of Iowa, president and moving spirit of U.S. Capitol Historical Society.

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Ford at Kennedy Center--

Praised Schwangel for his work. Also praised the film, saying that "the film gave me a perspective--I guess we can say/we may be out of the wilderness but we/^{still}are not yet out of the woods. , , , . It reminds us that solutions have always been found for our past problems and will be found in the future.

"I particularly enjoyed the scenes of the Capitol Bldg. Even though I spent some 25 years in the halls, I must confess that I am somewhat awed by the capitol--so much history has been written there. You can spend 25 years in the House of Rep. and not know all the places that exist in that fabulous building.

..."The city has grown to ~~to~~ reflect America's promises as well as its problems. "

He expressed hope some means can be found by Bi-Centennial Commission to show this film to visitors/^{in months ahead}before the Visitors Center at Union Station is ready.

Audience included many from House and Senate...House Minority Leader John Rhodes, Sens . Hubert Humphrey, Harry Byrd, Virginia, numerous House members, Randall, Missouri, Clarence Brown, Ohio, Reuss, Wisconsin, former Cong. Ken Gray, former WH aide Bryce Harlow, Virginia Low Bacon, Francis Thompson, the internationally known maker of this film, Allyn Cox, painter of the historical scenes on walls and ceiling of House of Rep.

McClendon