

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Dedication of the White House Visitors Waiting Area, April 14, 1976” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

MRS. FORD'S REMARKS

WHITE HOUSE VISITORS WAITING AREA

April 14, 1976

ISN'T THIS A LOVELY DAY.
AND WHAT A DELIGHTFUL DAY
TO HAVE THIS CEREMONY.

1.

IN MY YEARS IN WASHINGTON,
I'VE STOOD IN MANY, MANY LINES,
INCLUDING THOSE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.
AND IT'S REALLY GREAT
TO SEE THESE STANDS
WHICH MAKE THE WAITING MUCH EASIER.

THE CROWDS SEEM TO GET
LARGER EVERY YEAR,
AND, OF COURSE, IN THIS
OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR,
WE EXPECT A RECORD TURNOUT.

3.

WASHINGTON SUMMERS CAN REALLY BE HOT---

4.

NOT ONLY HOT, BUT HOT AND HUMID.

BUT THESE COVERED STANDS

SHOULD MAKE YOUR WAITING

A LOT MORE COMFORTABLE.

5.

I CAN REALLY APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS

OF STANDING IN LINE WITH CHILDREN.

THAT'S WHY I'M SO DELIGHTED

TO KNOW YOU NOW HAVE A PLACE TO SIT DOWN AND REST

WHILE LISTENING TO

SOME WONDERFUL ENTERTAINMENT.

I WANT TO SAY THANKS
TO CHAIRMAN TOM STEED,
REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD BOLAND,
AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
WHO SUPPORTED THIS PROJECT---

ALSO TO THE HARDWORKING MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
AND, OF COURSE, TO ALL WHO DONATE
THEIR TIME TO ENTERTAIN.

THE LARKIN HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS

FROM ELGIN, ILLINOIS

WILL BE SINGING FOR YOU TODAY.

I'D LIKE TO PRESENT THEM

THIS CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION---

AND TO SAY TO ALL OF YOU---

ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO THIS LOVELY HOUSE.

IT BELONGS TO YOU.

ITS HISTORY

IS THE HISTORY OF AMERICA,

AND YOUR VISIT

IS PART OF THE WHITE HOUSE TRADITION

OF HOSPITALITY.

WE'RE GLAD YOU'VE COME

AND WE HOPE YOU'LL COME AGAIN!

#

Remarks, Ellipse Appearance, April 14, 1976

It's so good to see all of you. This is my first close look at the new facilities, and ~~the new facilities~~ I'm so happy they are here to make your wait more ~~pleasant~~ ~~at~~ pleasant.

The WH is a very special place
All of us at the White House ~~hope~~ ^{now} your visit ~~to be a~~ ^{to be a} memorable one, especially in our Bicentennial Year. ^{Because so} With so many ~~extra visitors~~ ^{near} ~~extra~~ ^{this year} visitors expected, it's really grand these facilities are ready ^{to ease the crowd problems.}

There are some people who ~~deserve~~ deserve thanks: Chairman Tom Steed and Rep. Edward Boland and the members of Congress who supported this project, the dedicated men and women of the National Park Service and those who donated funds or services to arrange these stands and special programs.

I'm very happy to present a Certificate of Appreciation to the Larkin ~~High~~ High School Chorus---one of the many outstanding groups who have volunteered to entertain visitors.

You're in ~~Washington~~ Washington at such a beautiful season, and I hope you enjoy your Bicentennial visit to ~~the Ellipse~~ this lovely city and to the White House---the People's House.

Remarks, Ellipse Appearance, April 14, 1976

You know in my years in Washington I've stood in so many lines with visitors, and it really is grand to think ~~you~~ these facilities may make waiting more pleasant. We're going to have so many ~~people~~ people from all over the country and abroad, and these candi-cane canopes ~~is~~ should make it cooler.

You've really come at the most beautiful time, and all of us at the White House hope you enjoy seeing this lovely old ~~place~~ home. I believe that one of the things that makes the White House so special is the fact that so many people come to visit and to ~~visit~~ see the rooms where so much history has ~~been~~ taken place.

As a former visitor myself, I'd like to thank some of the people ~~who have worked~~ who've worked and ~~planned~~ planned to make these facilities possible. These include Chairman Tom Steed, Rep. Edward Boland and the many members of Congress who supported this project, the hard-working men and women of the National Park Service and those who ~~who~~ donated funds or services to arrange these special programs.

I think 1976 is a wonderful year to visit Washington to ~~celebrate~~ celebrate the Bicentennial. So enjoy.

Now I'd like to present a certificate of appreciation

to the Larkin High School Chorus of ~~the~~ Elgin, Illinois---
one of the many ~~many~~ ~~many~~ outstanding groups who ~~we~~
are entertaining visitors this year.

~~Thankxxxx~~

Kay

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM
FROM: SUSAN PORTER
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-house invitation:


EVENT: Visit New White House Visitors Waiting Area on the Ellipse
GUESTS: Congressional Sub-Committees and National Park Service and White House Visitors Office
DATE: Wednesday, April 14, 1976
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: Ellipse
CONTACT: Mike Farrell, Ext. 2322
COMMENTS: To focus attention on the new Visitors Waiting Area designed to better accommodate White House visitors during the Bicentennial, Mrs. Ford will go down to the Ellipse and participate briefly in recognizing the new arrangement. Because each day while visitors wait at the Ellipse to come to the White House a band or other entertainment will be provided, a band will be playing upon Mrs. Ford's arrival. She will briefly greet members of Congress and the Park Service who have come, thanking them all for coming and in a sense inaugurating the new program. She will also present a certificate to the band. This certificate will be given to each day's entertainment. She will greet a few of the visitors informally and then return to the White House. It is my understanding that Jack Williams (O: 343-6195; H: 333-2243) will do this advance. The file is attached. Thank you.

c: BF Staff
Jack Williams
Red Cavaney
William Nicholson
Mike Farrell
Rex Scouten
Staircase

VISIT VISITORS
APRIL 6, 7, or 8 7th per BF
upstairs

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN PORTER
FROM: MIKE FARRELL 
SUBJECT: Visitors Waiting Area, Ellipse
April 6, 7 or 8, 1976
11:00 or 11:30 a.m.

Handwritten note:
Have for
Sick children

April 6, 7 or 8 would be good dates for Mrs. Ford to see the Visitors Waiting Area which will be established on the Ellipse beginning March 16 through October 23. An invitation would be extended to the members of the Congressional committees which appropriated the funds for this special Bicentennial program to join her. I would suggest the following format.

1. Mrs. Ford could make brief remarks to the visitors assembled in the bleachers. This would provide her with an opportunity to thank the members of the two committees for their support of this special project and would enable her to make some appropriate remarks about the importance of the Bicentennial and to express her interest in sharing the White House with the American people.
2. She could then tour the area and meet the Park Service employees who are running this program.
3. She could also meet the high school or college band which will be performing for the visitors at that time and express her appreciation for their participation in the Bicentennial program.

Mrs. Ford has indicated that she would like to do this, schedule permitting. It would be best to schedule this for early April from the standpoint of inviting the members of the Congressional committees.

If that time should not prove to be convenient for Mrs. Ford, most any day, Tuesday through Saturday, later in the spring would be fine for her to drop by the Ellipse.

I have attached a fact sheet which we have prepared for tours during 1976 as additional background.

Thank you.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE OF WHITE HOUSE TOURS FOR 1976

To better accommodate visitors to the White House during our Bicentennial, the following provides information on tour procedures and scheduled events for 1976.

1. Tuesday, March 16, 1976 - Saturday, October 23, 1976

A Visitors Waiting Area will be established on the Ellipse in cooperation with the National Park Service. During this period, visitors should proceed to the Ellipse south of the White House -- not to the East Gate.

- (a) Visiting hours will be Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (most days, schedule permitting) and on Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The White House will be closed on Sunday and Monday.
- (b) Ticket booths will be open at 8:00 a.m. each day, Tuesday through Saturday. Tickets may be obtained from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Tuesday through Friday, and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Each member of a family or a group must obtain a ticket for the tour. Tickets are available the day of the tour only.
- (c) Each visitor after being issued a ticket (specifying the time of the tour) may either leave the park to visit other attractions or choose to view the entertainment program (9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. most days) on the Ellipse. Bleachers will be available. Visitors will be escorted from the Ellipse to the White House at the appointed time.

2. Before March 16 and after October 23, 1976

The White House will be open from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Tuesday through Saturday and closed on Sunday and Monday. Visitors should come to the East Gate on East Executive Avenue.

3. Garden Tours

As a special program for the Bicentennial, Mrs. Ford has asked that the gardens and grounds be open to the public on the following days:

Saturday	April 24	Sunday	April 25
Saturday	May 29	Sunday	May 30
Saturday	June 19	Sunday	June 20
Saturday	July 17	Sunday	July 18
Saturday	August 7	Sunday	August 8
Saturday	September 18	Sunday	September 19
Saturday	October 16	Sunday	October 17

Reservations are not required, admission is free. The tour includes the grounds and the State Floor of the White House. Each visitor receives a brochure as a guide to the grounds.

Special Note: On Saturdays the hours will be 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and the Visitors Waiting Area will be used. On Sundays the hours will be 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. and the Visitors Waiting Area will not be used. Visitors should come directly to the East Gate on East Executive Avenue.

4. Easter Egg Roll

Children 8 years and younger, accompanied by an adult, are invited to participate on Monday, April 19, 1976 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be entertainment and an egg rolling contest. Reservations are not required, admission is free. Participants should come to the Southeast Gate which is located at the intersection of East Executive Avenue and Alexander Hamilton Place, N.W.

5. Holidays

The White House will be open the following Monday holidays:

May 31	Memorial Day
September 6	Labor Day
October 11	Columbus Day

Visiting hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ticket booths on the Ellipse will be open 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

The White House will be closed the following holidays: New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

With best wishes for a most enjoyable visit to our Nation's Capital during the Bicentennial,

The White House Visitors Office