The original documents are located in Box 56, folder "1976/02/23 - White House Dinner with Governors and their Spouses" of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1976

WHITE HOUSE DINNER WITH GOVERNORS AND THEIR SPOUSES

Monday, February 23, 1976 8:00 p.m. State Dining Room

From: Jim Cannon

I. PURPOSE

To continue a traditional White House event for the Governors and their spouses during their annual Winter Meeting.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Since 1967 it has become traditional for the President or Vice President to host a dinner for both Governors and their spouses during their annual Mid-Winter Conference.

You will have opened the General Session Monday morning with one-half hour of remarks. Jim Lynn, Secretaries Simon, Richardson, Butz, Hills, Coleman and Usery, Attorney General Levi and Administrator Zarb will have participated in various work shops during the day as a follow-up to the commitment given by you to the Governors at their State of the States presentation with the Cabinet on December 18.

In addition to these working sessions, there was a special meeting between the White House Staff and Governors Andrus (D-Idaho), Carey (D-NY), Byrne (D-NJ) Shapp (D-PA) and Lucey (D-Wisconsin) on the subject of welfare reform as a response to the telegram sent to you by these Governors in December. Steve McConahey will have had breakfast with the Republican Governors on Monday morning.

You have met in working meetings with all of the Governors including the most recently elected, Cliff Finch (D-Mississippi). In the 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the three Terriroties, there are 37 Democrats, 14 Republicans, 2 Independents and 1 Popular Democrat.

B. Participants

To be submitted by a separate memorandum.

C. Press Plan

III TALKING POINTS

To be submitted by a separate memorandum.