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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 7, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JERRY JONES

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

Letter from David E. Betts

The attached letter was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"This was given me at Burning Tree yesterday.
Is it scheduled?"

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Cheney

This was given me
at Beverly Tove yesterday.
Is it scheduled?

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

DAVID E. BETTS
"HECTIC HILL", BOX 426
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

April 20, 1976

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford,
President of the United States,
c/o Mildred Leonard,
The White House,
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing this as a follow-up to our brief conversation at Burning Tree on Saturday, this time in my capacity as Senior Warden of Christ Episcopal Church here in Rockville, in Prince George's Parish, which is 250 years old this year, having been founded in 1726.

Among other programs and ceremonies marking the Sesqui-bicentennial Year, we will celebrate the anniversary with a Great Festival Service of Evening Prayer on Sunday, June 13th at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Presiding Bishop, John Allin, will preach and Bishop Creighton, Governor Mandel and Lieutenant Governor Lee, Senators Beall and Mathias and Congressman Gilbert Gude, will take part in the service. We would be highly honored and would like very much to have you read the New Testament Lesson, the text of which we will of course, send you well in advance. We will only pretend that it is being read from our 200 year old Bible, which is written in Old English!

Under the Maryland Vestry Act of 1789, the Governor of the State is the titular head of the Episcopal Church, so since Marvin Mandel is Jewish, it was considered appropriate that he read the Old Testament Lesson.

By use of closed circuit television, we will be able to seat over 1200 people in the church and at least one broadcasting company has expressed an interest in doing a documentary of the service, since

DAVID E. BETTS
"HECTIC HILL", BOX 426
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford


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the church, particularly in its 250th year, has attracted area-wide, as well as local interest.

Following the service there will be a reception at the Rockville Civic Center Mansion about one mile from the church. We very much hope that you and Mrs. Ford will be able to be present for what is obviously to us, a truly momentous occasion. I understand that John Niedecker, formerly of The White House Staff, has discussed this matter with Ms. Leonard.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon, I am,

Sincerely,



DEB:nq

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1976

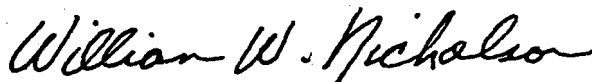
Dear Mr. Betts:

Thank you, on behalf of the President and Mrs. Ford, for your letter of April 20, inviting them to participate in ceremonies marking the 250th Anniversary of Christ Church, Episcopal, Rockville, Maryland, on Sunday, June 13.

While the President and Mrs. Ford are pleased to be included in your plans for the Great Festival Service of Evening Prayer on June 13 and would like to be able to join you on this occasion, the heavy demands of their official schedule will preclude their doing so.

The President would like you to know, though, he greatly appreciates your thoughtfulness for him and he sends warm good wishes in which Mrs. Ford joins him.

Sincerely,



William W. Nicholson
Director
Scheduling Office

Mr. David E. Betts
"Hectic Hill", Box 426
Rockville, Maryland