The original documents are located in Box 70, folder “Peoples Bicentennial Commission” of the John Marsh Files 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 Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: TED MARRS

Attached is a copy of the application received by the National Capital Parks Service from the People's Bicentennial Commission for a public gathering on July 4, 1976 in the area of 1st to 7th Streets, NW on the Mall from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

This is the group headed by Jeremy Rifkin. They have taken issue with the manner in which Bicentennial is being celebrated, have talked about the transfer of control of the large corporations to the workers and insist that their purposes are to carry out the doctrines of our founding father which they maintain we have not accomplished. This is the same group that camped out at Concord Bridge, Massachusetts on April 17-18, 1975 and attempted to disrupt the President's appearance there.

I'm forwarding this for your information and not recommending any intervention with the National Capital Parks Service where the responsibility exists for the receipt of the request and subsequent action. Certainly, any group has the right of peaceful assembly. However, in the event of a non-peaceful activity, I think the nation has the right that there be adequate enforcement of the laws that apply.

Attachment
1. Individual sponsor(s) Ted Howard

Address(es) 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W. #1010, Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone Nos. Day 833-9121 Evening ____________________

2. Sponsoring Organization(s) Peoples Bicentennial Commission

Address(es) 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W. #1010, Washington, D.C. 20036

3. Date(s) of proposed public gathering(s) July 4, 1976

Begin: 10 a.m. Terminate: 6 p.m.

4. Location(s) of proposed public gathering(s) Mall area, Between 1st & 7th.

5. Purpose of proposed public gathering(s) Independence Day Rally and Commemoration

6. Maximum number of participants for which this application is filed.
(If more than one park area is to be utilized, list separately for each area.)

250,000

7. Person(s) in charge of public gathering(s), and of coordination of sponsoring and/or participating groups. (One person must be listed as in charge of overall activities of a public gathering. If different individuals are to be in charge of various activities at different locations, each must be so listed (use supplemental sheet(s) for this purpose)).

Individual In Charge Ted Howard

Address 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W. #1010, Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone Nos. Day 833-9121 Evening ____________________

Prior experience relative to conducting public gatherings

Coordinated numerous rallies -- most recently, April 19, 1975, Concord, Mass., a rally of 45,000.
8. Proposed activities to be conducted in this public gathering.
   (Include a list of all principal speakers now known, the scheduling in terms of time, approximate duration, location, and nature of each separate activity. Include proposed route of march, if any.)
   Rally will continue from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. It will consist of
   speakers who are leading and nationally known representatives of the
   labor movement, the consumer and environmental movements, etc. Music
   will be of a folk-nature; no rock music. We are scheduling approximately
   two speakers and six musicians.

9. Assembly area(s) The rally will be held both on the West lawn of the Capitol
   and the aforementioned area of the Hall between 1st & 7th St.

10. a. List all equipment, props, and other items to be provided by
    applicant. (Include sound equipment, approximate number and
    size(s) of banners, placards, hand-held signs, size(s) of
    supports, standards, and handles, necessary medical and other
    similar items.) Details on this information will be forthcoming.
    at a later date.

b. Provide detailed information as to any such items as boxes,
   crates, coffins, or other similar items of similar description,
   whether they are to be carried opened or closed, their proposed
   size, the materials of which they will be constructed, and
   their proposed contents and use.

   None anticipated.

11. Dispersal area(s) Following rally’s conclusion, dispersal will take place
    from main area.

12. Explain plans for the orderly termination of the proposed public
    gathering and dispersal. (Specifically include any and all plans
    which might affect the regular flow of city traffic.)
   a. Will sponsor(s) furnish marshals? Yes. (Required for activities held simultaneously on White House Sidewalk* and in Lafayette Park.) If so, how many? approx. 500
   b. Person(s) responsible for supervision of marshals (for each location) if known:
      Location(s) ____________________________
      Name(s) ________________________________
      Address(es) ______________________________
      Telephone Nos. Day ____________________ Evening ____________________

   *South 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, sidewalk between East Executive Avenue and West Executive Avenue.

   a. How many clean-up people will be provided? Marshalls will conduct clean-up
   b. How will they be identifiable? Marshalls will wear badges (to be designed at future date.)

   *Area must be left in substantially the same condition as it was prior to the activities authorized, and all litter shall be placed in the trash containers provided.

15. Anticipated Problems.
   a. Is there any reason to believe, or is there any information indicating that any individual, group, or organization might seek to disrupt the public gathering for which this application is submitted?
      NO X YES
   b. If YES, list each individual, group, or organization, with all information and relative details available as to each, including addresses and telephone numbers.
      ______________________________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________________________
16. If no witness is otherwise available, the Government Officer receiving this application in person shall serve as such witness upon request. Mailed applications MUST be signed by a witness as well as by the applicant.

Signature Witnessed By:

Noreen Banks

Typed or Printed Name of Witness

Address of Witness

Day 833-9121 Evening

Telephone Numbers of Witness

Signature of Person Filing Application

Ted Howard

Typed or Printed Name of Such Person

1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W. #1010

Address of Above

National Co-director, P.B.C.

Position or Responsibility of Such Person Relative to Proposed Demonstration

NOTE: Under 18 U.S.C. 1001, any person who knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false statements or representations, in respect of any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States, is liable to a fine in an amount up to $10,000, and imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.
What does that mean to the average, or the employee who would be taxed the most? It is less than $1.00 a week, less than $52.00 a year, I think it comes out to $49.00 a year. That is one answer.

The other answer is, well, we can increase the earning base. It is now $15,400. As I recollect, some people want to raise that to some $25,000 or $30,000. Another one is the suggestion that you have made, to take it out of the general fund, to destroy the concept that people on Social Security earn it and have a right to a payment out of it. I disagree with that approach.

I think you can take one of the two other approaches. The one I recommended is the better, but let me answer the question of regressivity. You argue that under my approach it is regressive in its tax method. That is partially true as to the taxation, but let's turn the coin over. When the people start to get the benefits, the people in the lower income area get the most benefits so they pay less, but they get more, so it balances out in the end, and for that reason I recommended the approach that I did. I think it is an honest and a sound approach.

QUESTION: Mr. President, my question is that the People's Bicentennial Commission has come out with a platform on economic democracy and I was wondering what your opinion is of economic democracy?

THE PRESIDENT: What is my opinion of economic democracy? I must confess I have not read what the Bicentennial Commission has used in its definition, but I would say that economic democracy means that we have an opportunity in our economic system for an individual to make his way up the ladder on the economic scale. He is not frozen forever once he starts into a certain area of employment. He has the right to move around the country, to move from one job to another, to determine for himself what he, as an individual, is best at and wants to do. the years of his employment throughout the country.

From the point of view of the business community, economic democracy to me means that the business community is not run by the Government. The business community is run for the benefit of its stockholders, its employees and for the public as a whole, and that the heavy hand of Government does not run it, and if we can get the freedom of the individual and the freedom of the industrial sector, we can keep what I like to believe is the greatest economic system in the history of mankind.
MEMORANDUM TO: TED MARAS
FROM: MILT MITLER

RUSS ROURKE

Before responding to Phil, I would appreciate your respective input on the attached (correspondence, memoranda, your personal comments, etc.). I am aware of all of the general hoopla on the attached, but would appreciate any specifics you might have.

Many thanks.

RAR:cb
MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE
FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN

You may want to see what the competition is doing to mark the bicentennial.

I would welcome any comments you may have.
Dear Friend:

The P.B.C. is offering $25,000 in cash to anyone who can provide us with concrete information that leads directly to the arrest, prosecution, conviction and imprisonment of a chief executive officer of one of America's Fortune 500 corporations for criminal activity relating to corporate operations.

In addition, this week, we have sent personal letters to over 10,000 secretaries who work for major corporate executives and 13,000 journalists across the country extending the same offer of $25,000 in cash. This offer will extend through July 4, 1976.

If you have any further questions, please drop us a line at P.B.C., 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036.

In the Spirit of '76,

The Peoples Bicentennial Commission

Revolutionary Alternatives for the Bicentennial Years
June 18, 1976

Dear Bob:

Just a short note to thank you for sending me a copy of your recent letter to Don Alexander.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding copies to Dr. Ted Marrs and Milt Mitler in our Bicentennial Office for their information.

I greatly appreciate your bringing this to our attention.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Robert W. Daniel, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: Dr. Marrs
Milt Mitler
Phil Buchen
Dear Fellow American:

Were you there when they threw eggs at Ronald Reagan?

When the radicals decided that a presidential candidate should be denied his God-given right to speak?

I'm almost glad you weren't because I think you would have reacted with total disgust. I certainly know that's how I felt.

Before I relate to you some of the beliefs and activities of the group described above (called the Peoples Bicentennial Commission), I must assure you that there is a young organization that isn't going to stand for this—Young Americans for Freedom.

YAF has been around for fifteen years spreading its message about the importance of free enterprise and free citizens. And these young patriots don't like what's being spread by the Peoples Bicentennial Commission (PBC).

According to Jeremy Rifkin, founder and chief planner of the PBC, "what's needed is a complete restructuring of the economy." YAF knows that this restructuring is called socialism and would just like to see America's economy left alone for a change so it can work in the natural way that our founding fathers intended.

Rifkin and his obedient band of followers intend to flood our nation's capital with over 250,000 misdirected individuals to disrupt our bicentennial celebration in July.

Apparently practicing for this exercise in anarchy, thousands of young radicals shouted down a presidential address at Concord which was observing the beginning of the American Revolution for liberty.

Thousands of school librarians, teachers, and PTA presidents have been hoodwinked by high sounding rhetoric into accepting PBC propaganda which is now poisoning our children's minds every single school day.
And, of course, there was the carefully plotted egg throwing incident as Ronald Reagan was speaking in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Thousands of members of Young Americans for Freedom share my disgust at these facts.

And these young citizens have asked me to write you on their behalf. Their hopes and dreams for combating Jeremy Rifkin's outfit are fairly modest, but proudly American.

Ronald Reagan is an outstanding American leader whom YAF is proud to have on its national advisory board. The principles that he champions are the correct solutions to many of the problems facing our nation.

In fact, many members of Young Americans for Freedom are working on their own, as volunteers for Ronald Reagan. Some may be working in your town--certainly many are hard at work in your state.

A few of the vital activities YAF members will be involved in this spring, summer, and fall are:

1. canvassing neighborhoods and college dormitories to get out conservative volunteers and conservative voters;
2. maintaining telephone banks to ensure maximum conservative registration and voting;
3. serving as youth coordinators for conservative candidates in many of the most significant states;
4. getting conservative literature into the hands of many thousands of undecided voters.

To these young citizens, the principles championed by Ronald Reagan must prevail. The PBC crowd and its socialism and selfishness must not prevail. You, I, and Young Americans for Freedom can do a lot today toward keeping America free tomorrow.

Your support will enable YAF to educate even more young people on the virtues of limited government and the free market economy. YAFers will also receive necessary training in campaign organization.
And you'll be helping YAF counter the sickening activities of the Peoples Bicentennial Commission. With your assistance, YAF can expose this organization for what it is—an enemy of the free enterprise system and all that this country stands for.

Young people from every part of our nation have been informing YAF of radical PBC activities and asking that YAF lead opposition to this travesty. With this letter, I've enclosed some of their comments. Please read them over and, if you share their concern, let them know that you want to help.

YAF believes that the American public should know that the Peoples Bicentennial Commission is a tax-exempt group that receives federal grants. In other words, your tax dollars have filled the PBC treasury!

I'm proud of Young Americans for Freedom and all that it has accomplished through the years. Throughout the radical sixties, it stood alone as a symbol of responsible conservatism for our nation's young people.

YAF has consistently fought for the principles you and I believe in. Now they need our help in fighting for perhaps the greatest principle yet—the defeat of the young radicals who would pervert the American dream in her Bicentennial year.

Please answer today. Your contribution of $10, $20, $50, or whatever you can afford, will enable YAF to train and educate more young people to counter the efforts of the Peoples Bicentennial Commission to defame Ronald Reagan and other outstanding statesmen.

And your dollars will not only help in this important election year effort, but you'll also be helping America's youth become America's responsible leaders. Please send what you can today! We must receive your contribution before we can conclude our 1976 plans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kane
National Chairman

P.S. Many young conservatives are eagerly waiting on their campuses for news from YAF that they'll get the training and education needed in this election year. Please let them know that you care.
June 17, 1976

Mr. Donald C. Alexander
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Service
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Mr. Alexander:

My attention has been called to a letter addressed to "Fellow Americans" concerning the tax-exempt status of the so-called "Peoples Bicentennial Commission." I assume that the communication has come to your attention. In the event you have not seen it, I enclose a copy.

I call your particular attention to the marked section on Page 3 indicating that this organization received Federal grants. If this is correct, it is an incredible action on the part of the Federal government. The Peoples Bicentennial Commission has virtually declared itself to be a revolutionary organization attempting to destroy the efforts, through any means at its disposal, of the duly constituted Bicentennial Administration.

I shall appreciate your advice.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Daniel, Jr.

Enclosure

cc: Honorable John O. Marsh