The original documents are located in Box 71, folder “Schedule Proposals (1)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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I. PURPOSE

To attend the premiere showing of a film, "City Out Of Wilderness" and to participate in the official Bicentennial recognition of this project undertaken by the United States Capitol Historical Society.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: The United States Capitol Historical Society, of which you serve on the Honorary Board of Trustees, has two major Bicentennial projects:

- A film entitled "City Out Of Wilderness" and a sound and light production for the East Front of the Capitol Building.

The Kennedy Center showing of the film is its premiere to members of the federal establishment and attendance is by invitation only. Official Bicentennial recognition will be presented to Mr. Fred Schwengel, President of the Society, by John Warner at the end of the film showing.

"City Out Of Wilderness" was made to be shown in the new National Visitor's Center and also will be made available to the media and educational groups.

The film, which is 28 minutes long, shows the District of Columbia as it is today and how the city and the Capitol Building were built. Production of the film was underwritten by a combination of federal and private funding.

At this event, Mr. Schwengel will also introduce the National Advisory Board for the Society's second Bicentennial project, "Our Capitol: Freedom Speaks," the sound and light production. You supported this project in a House Joint Resolution in November of 1973. Mrs. Ford serves as Co-Chairperson of this National Advisory Board along with Mr. William M. Batten and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. A list of the National Advisory Board is attached.

B. Participants:

The Honorable Fred Schwengel, President
United States Capitol Historical Society

The Honorable John Warner, Administrator
American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

C. Press Plan: Full Press Coverage

III. TALKING POINTS

Speech material being provided by Paul Theis' office.
OUR CAPITOL: FREEDOM SPEAKS CAMPAIGN
NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

CO-CHAIRPERSONS:  The First Lady, Mrs. Ford
                    William M. Batten
                    Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

MEMBERS:  Joe Allbritton
          L. Berkley Davis
          Felix DeWeldon
          Ernest A. Hayes
          Senator Daniel K. Inouye
          Austin Kiplinger
          Goddard Lieberson
          Clare Boothe Luce
          Jane Marilley
          Honorable George Romney
RECEPTION: For Honor America officers and Board of Directors and spouses.

DATE: Week of September 14, 1975.

PURPOSE: To show appreciation to this patriotic group for all their efforts and hard work in the past and particularly in reference to planned Bicentennial activities scheduled for July 3 and 4, 1976.

FORMAT: The Mansion
List of participants attached
One hour

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None

REMARKS: To be provided by Ted Marrs.

PRESS COVERAGE: None

STAFF: Jack Marsh
Ted Marrs

RECOMMEND: Jack Marsh
Bill Beroody
Ted Marrs

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: President has met with Mr. Marriott, Chairman, several times but has not participated in meeting with entire group. Mr. Marriott has advised that President agreed with idea of reception but no date set.

BACKGROUND: Honor America, a program of the American Historic and Cultural Society, Inc. originated as one of the greatest patriotic rallies ever staged in America. It was appropriately titled "Honor America Day" and was held on July 4, 1970. This program was a tremendous success.
There was open division, criticism and bitterness heard throughout our land before this rally, but the good result from this display of love for God and Country helped change the tide.

The Honor America Day Committee decided to continue an annual observance each July 4.

They are in the midst of planning their Bicentennial July 3-4 program. The President has agreed to participate in their Kennedy Center Bicentennial program on July 3, 1976. This was stated by Mr. Marriott at a recent meeting.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGT0N
May 27, 1975

To: Donna

From: Maria Downs

Participation list of Honor Americans to go with Schedule Proposal for the President.
OFFICERS

J. Willard Marriott
Chairman
5161 River Road
Washington, D.C. 20016

Vice Chairmen
Hobart Lewis
Leonard H. Marks

Treasurer
Charles S. O'Malley, Jr.

Secretary and General Counsel
Herbert E. Marks

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Roy Wilkins  
C. Robert Yeager  
Charles J. Zwick  

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John P. Cosgrove  
927 National Press Building  
Washington, D.C. 20004  

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Bob Hope  
Rev. Billy Graham  

CONGRESSIONAL SPONSORS  
The Honorable Carl Albert  
The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.  
The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
The Honorable Michael J. Mansfield  
The Honorable Hugh Scott  

HONORARY CHAIRWOMEN  
Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson  
Mrs. Harry S. Truman
PRESENTATION: To David Eisenhower, Caroline and John Kennedy, and John Augustine Washington
Of first Bicentennial circulating coins—the quarter, half-dollar, and dollar bearing the likeness of their ancestors

DATE: Before July 7, 1975

PURPOSE: To present the new half-dollar Bicentennial coin and the newly re-designed quarter and dollar

FORMAT: Oval Office or Cabinet Room
List of participants attached
15 minutes

CABINET PARTICIPATION: William Simon

SPEECH MATERIAL: Remarks to be prepared by Editorial Division

STAFF: Jack Marsh
Ted Marrs

RECOMMEND: Jack Marsh
Ted Marrs
William Simon
Mary Brooks

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President has received a silver proof set of Bicentennial coins, but has not participated in circulation coin ceremony of any kind

BACKGROUND: The first of the Bicentennial circulating coins, the half-dollar, is scheduled for release on July 7, 1975 to be followed by the newly re-designed quarter and dollar before the end
Mary Brooks, Director of the Mint, has suggested that you may like to make a presentation of these historic coins to descendants of President Washington, President Kennedy, and President Eisenhower, whose profile appear on the front of the 1776-1976 dated quarter, half-dollar, and dollar, respectively.

For presentation purposes, the individual silver coins can be attractively contained in lucite and an appropriate plaque attached.

The back of the coins were designed by Jack L. Ahr (quarter), Seth Huntington (half-dollar), and Dennis Williams (dollar), winners of the New Bicentennial Coin Design Contest. The theme was emblematic of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. The portraits on the front are of Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and George Washington. The date inscription on the obverse of the coins was changed by the Mint to 1776-1976 in honor of the Bicentennial year.

PUBLICITY OPPORTUNITY: Full press coverage
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

John Kennedy
Caroline Kennedy
David Eisenhower
Julie Nixon Eisenhower
John Augustine Washington
William Simon
Mary Brooks
Jack Marsh
Ted Marrs
John Warner
June 4, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

It gives me great pleasure to advise you that the first of the Bicentennial circulating coins -- the half dollar -- is scheduled for release by the Federal Reserve System on July 7, 1975, to be followed by the newly re-designed quarter and dollar before the end of the year.

Last November, I had the privilege of presenting you with a silver proof set of the three Bicentennial coins. Now, the thought occurs to me that you might like to make presentations of these historic coins to descendents of Presidents Washington, Kennedy and Eisenhower whose profiles appear on the front of the 1776-1976 dated quarter, half dollar and dollar, respectively.

The designs on the reverses -- a colonial drummer on the quarter, Independence Hall on the half dollar and a combination Liberty Bell and moon on the dollar -- were selected in a national competition.

The Mint, of course, is very proud of these coins. To me, the Bicentennial coins -- like all our coins -- are small pieces of our historical and cultural heritage that will touch the hands of every American man, woman and child and the new designs represent the most important coinage change in the Mint's history.

For presentation purposes, the individual silver coins could be attractively contained in lucite and an appropriate plaque attached. Then, for example, you could present the dollar to President Eisenhower's grandson, David; the half dollar to President Kennedy's children, Caroline and John; and the quarter to John Augustine Washington, a collateral descendant of George Washington.

Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds
If you consider my suggestion has merit, I would be happy to discuss with a designated member of your staff the various possibilities of a White House Presentation ceremony involving the new Bicentennial coins at a time and date most convenient to you.

Thank you for whatever disposition you make of this request. I know how busy you are during these trying times. My heart goes out to you and I want you to know of my continuing friendship and support. You are doing a great job and I wish you continued success and good health.

Sincerely,

Mary Brooks
Director of the Mint

The President
The White House
With religious leaders to accept collection of Prayer Proclamations of America

Before July 24, 1975

To receive the first known collection of Prayer Proclamations of America beginning in 1775

Oval Office

List of participants to be submitted in future 5 minutes

None

Remarks to be provided by Editorial Division

Press Photo opportunity

Jack Marsh
Bill Baroody
Ted Marrs

Jack Marsh
Bill Baroody
Ted Marrs
John Warner
John Nigojecker

None

Peter Stewart, president of the Thanks-Giving Square Foundation, is the man who suggested that the President make the Proclamation on June 12, 1975 designating July 24, 1975 as a "National Day of Prayer, 1975." It was suggested for that date since the first national prayer day was proclaimed for a Thursday in July, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress on June 12, and ties in with the Bicentennial.

Mr. Stewart and others have put together the past proclamations of this nature in a large green leather box with a covering
religious leaders representing many denominations.

This presentation is endorsed by such people as Joseph L. Bernardin, Archbishop of Cincinnati and President of the NCCB, by Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf, Director of the Islamic Center, by David E. Sleeper, The Christian Science Board of Directors, and John M. Allin, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. W. Ralph Ward, Jr., of the United Methodist Church, and Anne Armstrong, former Counselor to the President, have also expressed positive opinions on this idea. These 179 proclamations compose the first known collection of Prayer Proclamations of America.
June 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: TED MARRS
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

I have the original of the attached schedule proposal. I do not know the derivation nor the justification of the official "1776-Bicentennial-1976" bed quilt. My assumption is that the word official is a personal designation by Mr. and Mrs. Fleming.

Do you have any problem with the attached proposal?

RAR: cb
TO:          RUSS
FROM:        NANCY KENNEDY

Is this okay with you from a bicentennial standpoint?

Ta!
MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE  
FROM: TED MARRS

June 13, 1975

There are many people making quilts for the Bicentennial using very attractive designs. One class is working on one that they want to present next year...a woman called about a month ago and practically cried on the phone saying she felt like Betsy Ross sewing away on her quilt...! Also, we have had quite a bit of correspondence on quilts.

If the President receives this quilt and designates it the "official" Bicentennial quilt, we are going to have some angry "Betsy Rosses" on our hands!

I would make decision on basis of Senator Byrd's interest level and would not let it be the official quilt.
MEMORANDUM TO: TED MARRS
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

I have the original of the attached schedule proposal. I do not know the derivation nor the justification of the official "1776-Bicentennial-1976" bed quilt. My assumption is that the word official is a personal designation by Mr. and Mrs. Fleming.

Do you have any problem with the attached proposal?
MEETING:  Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Fleming and Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.)

DATE:  At the President's convenience

PURPOSE:  Senator Byrd will introduce Mr. and Mrs. Fleming who will present the President and Mrs. Ford with an official "1776-Bicentennial-1976" bed quilt.

FORMAT:  Oval Office
The President and Mrs. Ford
Senator Robert C. Byrd
Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Fleming
Patrick O'Donnell

PRESS COVERAGE:  White House Photo

BACKGROUND:  Although this is a bed quilt, it is also suitable as a wall hanging. There is a map of the U.S.A. in the center with individual State maps around the border.

Senator Byrd, Majority Whip, has requested a brief meeting with the President in order to introduce a West Virginia couple who have put a great deal of work into an official "1776-Bicentennial-1976" quilt.

Senator Byrd normally avoids this kind of a request. Accordingly, we are well advised to accommodate by allowing a brief meeting.
THE WHITE HOUSE  SCHEDULE PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON  DATE: June 20, 1975
FROM: Ted Marrs
THRU: Jack Marsh
VIA: Warren Rusland

ATTEND: Premiere performance of American Bicentennial Theatre at the Kennedy Center.

DATE: July 9, 1975

PURPOSE: To commemorate the launching of the American Bicentennial Theatre.

FORMAT: *Eisenhower Theater of the Kennedy Center
         *List of participants attached
         *7:00 PM

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None

REMARKS: To be prepared by Editorial Division.

PRESS COVERAGE: Full press coverage.

STAFF: Jack Marsh
       Ted Marrs
       Bob Goldwin

RECOMMEND: Jack Marsh
           Ted Marrs
           Bob Goldwin
           John Warner

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None

BACKGROUND: The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will present a major American Bicentennial celebration as a result of unprecedented funding by private industry.

This celebration will be supported by IBM, Xerox Corporation, Exxon Corporation, Amoco Oil, Prudential Insurance Company of America, Mobil Oil and McDonalds Restaurants. Each will underwrite Bicentennial
programs that will focus worldwide attention on
the performing arts in the Nation's Capital.

The Center's Bicentennial season will include
an entire year of American plays both old and new,
free festivals, scores of special Bicentennial
music programs, American musicals and operettas,
appearances by internationally renowned American
and foreign opera and ballet companies as well as
a huge exhibition of the history of the performing
arts in America.

The Governments of Canada, Germany, England, France,
Italy, Denmark and the Soviet Union are playing
major roles in this celebration as a result of
invitations extended by our country.

The invitation to the President and Mrs. Ford
was extended by Mr. C. Peter McColough, Chairman
of the Board of Xerox Corporation and Mr. Roger
Stevens, Chairman, John F. Kennedy Center for the
Performing Arts.

The performance is Thornton Wilder's comedy,
"The Skin of Our Teeth" starring Elizabeth Ashley,
Alfred Drake and Martha Scott. It will be
followed by a supper on the terrace for the
cast and special guests.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The President and Mrs. Ford
Mr. and Mrs. C. Peter McColough
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Stevens
June 3, 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

On Wednesday, July 9, 1975, the Kennedy Center and Xerox Corporation will present the premier production of our American Bicentennial Theatre, the Thornton Wilder comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" starring Elizabeth Ashley, Alfred Drake and Martha Scott.

This launching of American Bicentennial Theatre is a very significant event in the life of the Center. It marks the first time that the Center itself has undertaken to produce a whole season of plays which has been made possible thanks to a substantial grant from Xerox. As you know it is the policy of the Center to use private funds rather than asking for government support.

C. Peter McColough, Chairman of the Board of Xerox and I will be enormously pleased if you and Mrs. Ford will honor this occasion by being our guests at the premier performance which will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater, followed by a supper on the terrace for the cast and special guests.

Yours sincerely,

Roger L. Stevens
Chairman

cc: R. Goldwin
    R. West
    N. Lammersing
    Washington, D.C. 20566. phone: 202-637-4000
MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robin West  
The White House

FROM: Mr. Roger L. Stevens, Chairman

June 5, 1975

As I mentioned to you before, we have a very important Bicentennial program, which John Warner admits is the only one of substance in the country.

In theatre, Xerox has given us a line of credit up to $400,000, which will be used to produce ten American plays. The first production, Thornton Wilder's SKIN OF OUR TEETH, will open on July 9th.

Prudential has given us $163,000 for a production which will feature all types of songs representing different segments of American music.

IBM has given us $500,000 for an exhibit which will illustrate the history of the performing arts in this country over the past 200 years.

Mobil Oil has pledged sufficient funds to have free concerts during the Christmas season, as we did last year. This grant will be at least $50,000, if not more. McDonald's is financing a similar series of concerts during the Easter season for approximately $50,000. Both series will be largely devoted to American music appropriate to the Bicentennial.

Exxon has put up $200,000 to enable the Center and the National Federation of Music Clubs to present a State Days Program, whereby each of the fifty states will select one of their performing arts groups to come to Washington and perform free concerts at the Kennedy Center. Also, Exxon is giving serious consideration to another large grant to finance other special Bicentennial music events at the Center. I expect to have final word from them on this before such a press conference is arranged.
The Cafritz Foundation has given us a grant of $75,000 to bring the Bolshoi Opera here in July. In addition, we are bringing the Berlin, Paris and LaScala Operas here during the celebration, which are mostly being financed by their own Governments. As a matter of interest, the Berlin and LaScala Operas will be exclusive to Washington and will not play anywhere else in the United States.

It would be appreciated if you could arrange for the Fish Bowl Room to be used for a press conference in which we could set forth all of these activities in detail. It would be a great credit to the Administration and would show that private enterprise is willing to help a Government Institution in achieving a truly fine Bicentennial celebration. So, if the President could give his official blessing in whatever manner he wishes - whether it be by attending the conference or receiving some press in his office - it would be a great benefit to all concerned.

I know that handling the press announcement in this manner would make the participating companies very happy and might lead to continuing support from them in the future.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KENNEDY CENTER TO HAVE MAJOR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AS A RESULT OF GENEROUS FUNDING BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY

Washington, D. C., Tuesday, July 8 ... The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will present a major American Bicentennial celebration as a result of unprecedented funding by private industry.

At a press conference which took place today at the White House, Roger L. Stevens, the Kennedy Center's Chairman of the Board of Trustees, announced that the Center's Bicentennial celebration will be supported by IBM, Xerox Corporation, Exxon Corporation, Amoco Oil, Prudential Insurance Company of America, Mobil Oil and McDonald's Restaurants. Each will underwrite Bicentennial programs that will focus world-wide attention on the performing arts in the Nation's Capital.

The Center's Bicentennial season will include an entire year of American plays both old and new, free festivals, scores of special Bicentennial music programs, American musicals, and operettas, appearances by internationally renowned American and foreign opera and ballet companies as well as a huge exhibition of the history of the performing arts in America.

Mr. Stevens said, "This extraordinary gift to the Nation in its capital was made possible by the unprecedented generosity and cooperation of these great American corporations who were concerned with reflecting the strength and beauty of our American performing
Kennedy Center to have major Bicentennial celebration

As a result of sending invitations to governments all over the world to participate in our Bicentennial, the Administration helped us enormously. The Governments of Canada, Germany, England, France, Italy, Denmark and the Soviet Union responded, and are playing major roles in our Bicentennial celebration.

Mr. Feinstein, our Executive Director of Performing Arts, as a result was able to make arrangements for a two-week Canadian festival, the Berlin Opera, the Royal Ballet, the Paris Opera, La Scala, the Royal Danish Ballet, and the Bolshoi Opera. All these governments contributed substantially to production and transportation costs. We are also grateful for the cooperation of John Warner, Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Also we were fortunate in having the help of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz and George Gund Foundations. The cooperation of private industry, the Administration, ARBA, and the foreign governments has made it possible for the creation of this major celebration. We are told by John Warner that at the Kennedy Center we will have the most comprehensive Bicentennial celebration of its sort that will be held anywhere in the country.

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL THEATRE

Xerox and the Kennedy Center will launch an entire season of American plays called American Bicentennial Theatre tomorrow (July 5). The opening play is Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" starring Elizabeth Ashley, Alfred Drake and Martha Scott and directed by Jose Quintero. Nine more productions, featuring top stars and directors are scheduled including Percy MacKaye's "The Scarecrow," a 1901 fantasy drama starring William Athert and Barbara Baxley; the 1894 William Gillette comedy, "Too Much John
starring Jason Robards; Tennessee Williams' "Sweet Bird of Youth" starring Irene Worth and Christopher Walken; the George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber comedy "The Royal Family" starring Rosemary Harris, "Rip Van Winkle" starring Anthony Quayle; and Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night" directed by Jose Quintero and starring Jason Robards and other plays possibly including some commissioned works.
MAJOR BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

IBM has provided a grant to the Center for a major Bicentennial exhibition. Called "AMERICA ON STAGE: A Bicentennial Exhibit of the Performing Arts," it will reflect the history and development of the performing arts in the United States. The exhibit is scheduled to open in late Fall and will be housed in the Center's Atrium, a multi-purpose room and North Gallery.

"AMERICA ON STAGE" will portray a spectrum of entertainment from Colonial days to the present including theatre, dance and music. It will be the most extensive exhibit presented at Kennedy Center since its opening in 1971 and will be located on the roof terrace level.

MUSIC PROGRAMS AND FESTIVAL

Exxon is underwriting a 20-month "Bicentennial Parade of American Music" as well as an important retrospective of American music featuring the achievements of lesser known composers of the past two centuries. The "Bicentennial Parade," launched last month features free concerts by outstanding music groups from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The program was conceived and produced for the Kennedy Center by the National Music Council.

(MORE)
major Bicentennial celebration

The retrospective of American music series began last Friday (July 4) with "THE STAR SPANGLED PIANO" a midnight marathon with four pianists performing works for one, two, four and eight hands, ranging from Sebastain Mill's concert paraphrase of "Hail Columbia" to a contemporary work entitled "Quodlibet on American Folk Tunes."

This September 8th, The Prudential Insurance Company of America will sponsor an historical cavalcade in song, dance and legend to be produced by the Kennedy Center. Starring John Raitt and written and directed by Oscar Brand, the production will appear in the Concert Hall for two weeks.

Mobil Oil, which funded Kennedy Center's Holiday Festival last year is currently working with the Center on a special Bicentennial program to be presented free to the public once again spanning the 12 days of the Christmas season.

McDonald's Restaurants last May officially opened the Kennedy Center Bicentennial celebration with a week-long free Spring Festival of American Music. Plans are currently underway for producing a similar series in 1976.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

The Kennedy Center has already begun its first Bicentennial Opera Series with a two-week sold-out appearance by the New York City Opera. The Bolshoi Opera and The Berlin Opera will appear in the Center's Opera House in their long-anticipated first American visits. The Bolshoi appearance, made possible by a grant from (MORE)
Kennedy Center to have major Bicentennial celebration

The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation will perform for two weeks beginning July 22nd in five of its most famous productions - Eugene Onegin, Pique Dame, Boris Godunov, War and Peace and The Gambler. An exciting new work, The Dawns Are Quiet Here will also be presented. The Berlin Opera will make its only appearance in America at the Kennedy Center bringing three productions: Lohengrin, Tosca and Cosi Fan Tutte. Also scheduled for 1976 are the first and exclusive appearances of La Scala Opera, Milan and Paris Opera.

Kennedy Center's Bicentennial Ballet Series will include appearances by London's famed Royal Ballet, the Royal Danish Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre. Funding for the Royal Danish Ballet's appearance will be provided by the George Gund Foundation.

Beginning on October 26, 1975, the Canadian Government and the Kennedy Center will present a two-week Festival of the arts: ballet and music. The Canadian Government will send The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The National Arts Centre Orchestra, The Mendelssohn Choir with Canadian Brass, The Shaw Festival and two opera companies, the National Arts Centre Opera and the Canadian Opera Company to Washington in the largest single enterprise of its kind ever undertaken by Canada.

VISITING MUSICALS

A number of American musicals are tentatively scheduled to play Kennedy Center's Opera House in the course of the season.
by Harold Prince; 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, a new musical by Leonard Bernstein with lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner; REX, a new Richard Rogers-Sheldon Harnick musical, and a new musical version of Shakespeare's Hamlet by composer-lyricist Cliff Jones are planned.

RESIDENT COMPANIES

In addition to attractions produced or presented by the Kennedy Center resident companies such as the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington Performing Arts Society will have their own Bicentennial projects on the Center's stages.

The Washington Performing Arts Society's bicentennial programe made possible by a grant from the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundatio will feature gifted young American pianists in a series of concerts of specially commissioned American works. The National Symphony will play specially commissioned works and plan their concerts to highlight American composers throughout the bicentennial period.

OTHER EVENTS

It is important to note that practically every day of the Bicentennial, visitors will be able to have their choice of Bicentennial events. In addition to all the attractions already announced, there will be free seminars, symposiums, other free concerts in the Grand Foyer, free organ demonstrations as well as our usual free tours of the Center.

The Friends of the Kennedy Center, The Alliance for Arts Education, the National Park Service and the National Endowment for the Humanities will all be heavily involved in supporting one or more of these projects.
MEETING: With sponsors of American Bicentennial Theatre and representative members of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

DATE: July 8, 1975 (first choice)
      July 7, 1975

PURPOSE: To discuss the American Bicentennial Theatre, a major year long presentation of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Meeting to be followed by a Roger Stevens press conference in the White House.

FORMAT: °Oval Office or Cabinet Room
        °List of participants attached
        °15 minutes

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None

REMARKS: To be prepared by Editorial Division.

PRESS COVERAGE: Press Photo Opportunity

STAFF: Jack Marsh
       Ted Marrs
       Ron Nessen
       Bob Goldwin

RECOMMEND: Jack Marsh
           Ted Marrs
           Ron Nessen
           Bob Goldwin RAG (JP)
           John Warner

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None
BACKGROUND:

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will present a major year long American Bicentennial celebration as a result of unprecedented funding by private industry.

This celebration will be supported by IBM, Xerox Corporation, Exxon Corporation, Amoco Oil, Prudential Insurance Company of America, Mobil Oil and McDonalds Restaurants. Each will underwrite separate programs.

Canada, Germany, England, France, Italy, Denmark and the Soviet Union are playing major roles in this celebration as well as all elements of the American performing arts.

It would be extremely beneficial if the President recognized this endeavor by meeting with the representatives of private industry and the John F. Kennedy Center who made it possible.

The program would also receive important impetus if a press conference with Roger Stevens could be held in the White House Press Room following the above meeting.

AGREE ___________  DISAGREE ___________
Mr. Frank T. Cary, President and Chief Executive Officer
International Business Machines Corporation
Old Orchard Road
Armonk, New York 10504
(914) 765-1900

Mr. C. Peter McColough, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Xerox Corporation
Stamford, Connecticut 06904
(203) 329-8711

Mr. Donald S. MacNaughton, Chairman of the Board
Prudential Insurance Company of America
Prudential Plaza
Newark, New Jersey 07101
(201) 336-1234

Mr. J. K. Jamieson, Chairman of the Board
Exxon Corporation
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020
(212) 974-3000

Mr. Fred L. Turner, President
McDonald's Corporation
1 McDonald's Plaza
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521
(312) 887-3200

Mr. W. R. Pierson, President
Amoco Oil Company, Inc.
200 East Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 856-5111

Mr. Rawleigh Warner, Jr., Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Mobil Oil Corporation
150 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017
(212) 883-4242

Mr. Rogers Stevens
Chairman
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

DATE: March 5, 1976

PURPOSE: To head the official delegation to the opening of this widely acclaimed Bicentennial exhibit in the United States.

FORMAT: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, New York. List of official delegation will be submitted at a later date. 3 hours.

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None.

SPEECH MATERIAL: To be provided by the Editorial Division.

STAFF: Jack Marsh, Ted Marrs, Milt Mitler.

RECOMMEND: Jack Marsh, Bill Baroody, Robert A. Goldwin, Ted Marrs, Milt Mitler.

OPPOSED: None.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None.

PRESS COVERAGE: Full press coverage.

BACKGROUND: The concept of the exhibit spans 130 years of American history (1700-1830)—from the roots of the American colonial experience and its European heritage to the point when the young Nation was about to make its great move westward. It
shows how the careers of Franklin and Jefferson intersected at important times, especially during the preparation of the Declaration of Independence; during the Revolution; and during the early stages of our Constitutional government.

The exhibit was designed for the ARBA by the distinguished American architect and film maker, Charles Eames. The ARBA is presenting this exhibit in cooperation with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York through a grant from the private sector (IBM). It is the only exhibit sponsored by ARBA overseas and is being managed and operated abroad by U.S.I.A.

"The Age of Franklin and Jefferson" exhibit opened in Paris on January 10, 1975. It is now being presented in Warsaw, Poland and will go to London, England in September. After coming to New York, which will be its first United States appearance, the exhibit will proceed to Chicago and San Francisco. The exhibit has been breaking all attendance records set by previous showings.
MEETING: With the National Commander and other representatives of the Disabled American Veterans

DATE: Between September 10 and September 19

PURPOSE: To receive an official Bicentennial 1975 Sterling Silver medal. To discuss and express appreciation for the part the Disabled American Veterans will play in the sale of these medals which finance Bicentennial projects.

FORMAT: Cabinet Room
List of participants attached
5 minutes

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None

SPEECH MATERIAL: Remarks to be provided by the Editorial Division

STAFF: Jack Marsh
Bill Baroody
Ted Marrs
Milt Mitler

RECOMMEND: Jack Marsh
Bill Baroody
Ted Marrs
Milt Mitler

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None

PRESS COVERAGE: Full press coverage

BACKGROUND: The Disabled American Veterans are a Congressionally chartered organization that represent 2.5 million disabled veterans and their families. The organization provides invaluable assistance in obtaining benefits for disability.
compensation, hospitalizations, unemployment and rehabilitation for the veteran injured while in military service. The Disabled American Veterans work closely with the Veterans Administration, Congress, and other Federal units and state agencies responsible for veterans' programs.

The Disabled American Veterans have volunteered to help the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration increase the non-tax dollars needed to help fund thousands of Bicentennial projects by acting as sales agents for the American Bicentennial Administration's official 1975 commemorative Medal and Philatelic-Numismatic combination. They will participate on a nationwide basis. They are the only service organization with a Bicentennial project of this magnitude.

One of the major responsibilities of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration is to help finance projects in every state in the country with non-tax dollars raised by the sale of the Congressionally authorized official Bicentennial medal and other items. Through this means, the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration has been enabled to grant more than $6,000,000 on a matching basis to Bicentennial projects since 1973.
PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Walter T. Greaney
National Commander, Disabled American Veterans and National Chairman for the DAV/ARBA Bicentennial program.

Mr. Lyle T. Pearson
National Senior Vice-Commander, Disabled American Veterans and candidate for National Commander, to be elected the week prior to this proposed meeting.

Mr. Richard M. Wilson
Assistant National Adjutant for Public Relations Disabled American Veterans

Honorable John W. Warner
Administrator
American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

Mrs. Mary Brooks
Director of the Mint
U. S. Department of the Treasury

Mr. Sidney Eiges
Assistant Administrator for Resource Development
American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

Mr. Henry v. Z. Hyde, Jr.
Director, Commemorative Sales
American Revolution Bicentennial Administration
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PRESENTATION: Of a replica of the Declaration of Independence in Braille.

DATE: At the President's convenience.

PURPOSE: To present a Bicentennial gift to the nation which represents Mrs. GoldBlatt's interest in the educational development of the blind as well as her personal esteem for the President's human qualities.

FORMAT: Roosevelt Room
15 Minutes
Participants will include representatives of the prominent national organizations for the blind.
List will be provided at a later date.

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None

REMARKS: To be provided by the Editorial Division.

PRESS COVERAGE: Full press coverage.

STAFF: Jack Marsh
Ted Narrs
Milt Hitler

RECOMMENDED: Jack Marsh
Ted Narrs
Milt Hitler

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None

BACKGROUND: Mrs. Goldblatt has voluntarily contributed extensively towards the educational development of the blind and deaf-blind. She undertakes such projects as "a gift of love to humankind" and has received many commendations for her efforts. She
is with the Department of Education at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York.

The completed document is 30 X 40 in dimension, and is an exact replica of the Declaration of Independence. It incorporates the Liberty Bell, is painted in bronze, has the Government Seal in gold and American blue, and bears the markings of its original counterpart. It will be presented by Mrs. GoldBlatt.

Representatives of the national organizations dedicated to the blind will also be invited to witness this presentation. As far as we can determine, there is no other Braille Declaration of Independence in existence.

This has exceptional humanitarian values and the preparation of the Declaration of Independence in Braille is a very unusual but laudatory Bicentennial contribution.
Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.
Braille — A PATHWAY TO KNOWLEDGE

"Won't you help me continue this much needed work?"

Fights Blindness by Teaching Braille

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS:

The following are facts which must concern us all. In this area ... Greenwich, Stamford, Darien and New Canaan there are more than fifty blind children under 12 years of age. There is another large number of boys and girls between the ages of 17 and 21 who are partially blind. There are over 200 adults between the ages of 25 and 65 who are totally blind. There are unknown numbers of blind citizens in our midst above the age of 70 unregistered.

I work among these people. I made it possible for the young children to attend public schools throughout the state by teaching classes, working with their parents and providing trained workers and trained teachers in every community. I also impressed the Governor with the necessity for provision of funds for a Special Services Teacher.

My work with individual students makes it possible for their acceptance to schools of higher learning.

For the adult groups I have provided trained women to serve their needs. There are among them professional writers, teachers and other learned individuals whose needs must be kept enlightened. Not only have I done this through the magazine I publish "THE ARC LIGHT", but through special transcriptions to fit the individual needs.

You may be asking why I tell you these truths. Frankly, I need your help. I know I can't ask each of you to give of your time and energy. I ask only for your help in that I can fill the numerous genuine demands and needs of these human beings who live in our midst in a realm of their own darkness. Please! Won't you help by sending a contribution?

Faithfully yours,

CHARLOTTE FRAZER GOLDBLATT
RECOGNITION

"To light a candle of understanding" between those who can see and those who must go through life in darkness. This is the objective of Mrs. Charlotte F. Goldblatt who, strictly as a volunteer, heads a state wide program aid for the blind.

Henry Shepley
Stamford Advocate

"A ball of fire who knows her stuff". That is how Albert N. Sherberg, Executive Secretary of the Connecticut State Board of Education refers to Mrs. L. Jay Goldblatt of Stamford, who unselfishly has stirred the "holt> state of Connecticut into activity to help the blind.

Donald Ross
New York Herald Tribune

You must take great pride in the fact that you have prepared the people in this state for such necessary work. I hope we can continue to receive your invaluable knowledge and talents. I must congratulate you for your selection of Centers throughout the state where the Transcribing units have been set up.

Gary McConkie
Special Services Teacher
Connecticut State Board of Education

WORLD WIDE COMMENTS

Prime Minister Nehru has asked me to thank you for the Braille Magazines which you so generously send to our blind people. They are deriving immense benefit.

K. Venk. I.C.S.
Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister—New Delhi, India

"Thanks to your generosity and understanding we now have forty students; fourteen in English and explain them in French. I often think of you and the example of your life is for me a comfort and encouragement to continue."

Janine Leasure, Director
American Braille Library—Paris, France

You are certainly doing a great deal to maintain the higher standard of content of Braille magazines and the wonderful work which is so close to your heart. I am sure that the blind all around the world have reason to be grateful to you.

James E. Jarvis
Royal National Institute—London, England

"How pleased I am to hear from someone who has devoted herself to making life more pleasant for the unfortunate ones who cannot see the light of day and the beauties of nature. Please send your magazine to the Society for the Blind here."

Jane Heseltine
North American Radio Service
Moscow, USSR

"Which she distributes free throughout the world, she has given something people the opportunity to build their lives. To become members, involve teachers and

Judy Leavens
Fairfield County

ENDORSED BY

His Excellency Bishop Walter Corm — Diocese of Bridgeport
National League (Women's) — United Synagogues of America
MAY we congratulate you for the miracle you have performed in your state. You have built an oasis from a barren desert.

Dr. George Fearn, Executive Director
Michigan Braille Institute of America
Rock Island, Illinois

LETTERS FROM GRATEFUL RECIPIENTS

Through your generosity in working out Greek and French Braille codes for me you have made it possible for me to qualify for entrance to Purdue University where I hope to get my Ph.D.

REV. CHARLES G A R D O N — Blind
Louisville, Kentucky

Although I have contacted many organizations I was completely unable to find anyone to help me. I came at last to the point of giving up as I could not keep up with my class. I felt I could not understand the сделал of eternal relationships. But you, a perfect stranger, showed you were willing to provide me with my braille textbooks. This has given me new hope. No, I promised. I will not give up.

SYLVIA ALMA — Blind
Box 2323 — Ferris University
Greenville, South Carolina

We don't mind telling you that we have been in contact with many people in the past three years. At no time have we met anyone who has shown such earnestness and concern for us.

Many people are aware that we are inmates without sources of income; without financial support or sponsorship; that we do not even have what it takes to purchase a four cent stamp that we need for correspondence. But it seems that some people look without seeing and listen without hearing, and live without caring. And we ask only that someone would care enough to help us set up a Braille unit here in the prison.

We took the liberty of making copies of your letters to us which we went to various people and organizations. The response has been remarkable. Our chaplain thinks that the story you sent in to the Detroit Press will also help.

We wish there were some tangible evidence of our appreciation to present to you for your help and understanding. But all there is is thanks. We hope that you will look upon it not as a compensating token of your effort in our behalf but simply as a debt we can never hope to repay.

CHARLES E. HAYNES
Michigan State Prison

We have been a visible mountain of strength and inspiration to us when we needed encouragement most. Sponsorship and promise of apparently such easy shedding which you made possible does not in the slightest degree lessen our sense of appreciation for all that you have given our program since your visit. We are deeply appreciative of your generous offer of continued support and advice in the future. We shall certainly take advantage of it.

Sincerely yours,

NORM L. FINLEY, Director
Sect. Services, Michigan State Prison
Middletown, Conn.

You are generous indeed to give your time and energy to help our blind student here without remuneration or compensation for services rendered. Ralph is doing very well and he is grateful to you for giving him the opportunity to study here. I shall continue to ask for your help in special programs as in such splendid work you are doing.

Mona Buhler, Ph.D.
Vocation Counselor in the Old Testament
Kutztown, Pennsylvania

We are so grateful to you for taking an interest in our students here. We have 41 children who read grade II Braille. The text books you sent are very helpful.
We would be grateful if you could possibly send us 50 copies more of each one.

ELNA K O M M A N
Director of Education
Middletown
OTHER ACTIVITIES

Taught for Stamford Board of Education
Peter Dehan (now at Trinity College, Hartford)

CAROLINE CAMERON (graduate Connecticut State College)

Provided Greek and Latin text books in Braille for Dr. Adolph Poulis — Professor of Greek Literature at Wesleyan University.

Work with Dr. Moses Bailey at Hartford Seminary Foundation — Divinity Students.

Music copy — Symphony — Libera — for blind concert pianist in Hartford.

Provided 150 copies each of Holy Hymns and Prayers for the (Annual) Retreat for blind women of Villa Maria Convent, Stamford.

Presented Metropolitan Opera with copies of programs in Braille, enabling blind to follow cast in order of appearance, costumes, stage settings, and synopsis of the play. If you desire to see these, contact Mrs. Enea Ponzio, Guild Room at the Met.


On faculty of Manhattanville College since 1955.

Instructing students from foreign lands in preparation for work with blind in their native lands.

Instructed correspondence course in English Braille through American Library in Paris, France making it possible for young blind foreign students to read American literature.

Conducting Braille classes — Junior League, Stamford.

Working with parents in Westchester.

Published Braille Magazine "THE ABC LIGHT".

(Available at leading libraries in the U.S.A., including Library of Congress. Also available through Braille libraries in France, England, New Zealand, Italy, Germany, Austria, India, Malaysia, Yugoslavia, Jerusalem, Singapore and Russia.)

Chairman Special Board — Stamford Community Council.

Provided Braille scripts for groups of blind dramatic players—
The Elbow Players, New York.

THIS IS THE SECOND SOLICITATION FOR FUNDS IN 22 YEARS TO AID IN CARRYING ON THIS MUCH NEEDED WORK. THE GREATLY ENLARGED SCOPE OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO CONTINUE WITHOUT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. WILL YOU HELP?

THANK YOU.

MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE TO:

THE ABC LIGHT, INC.

% CHARLOTTE F. GOLDBLATT, Director

Dogwood Lane

Stamford, Conn.

or

% FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRUST

300 Main Street, Stamford, Conn.
The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The enclosed circular will serve the purpose of establishing my credibility.

As we approach the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of our beloved nation, my thoughts have been dwelling upon the idea of creating something out-of-the-ordinary, but of purpose, to commemorate this most eventful period in the life of every American.

In my work, devoted to the inspired purpose of educational development of the blind and semi-blind, work which by an uncommon spectacle I undertook not as a means of earning a living but as a gift of love to humankind, it has been my policy annually, to accomplish a specific project pertinent to the sacred annals of those who live in eternal darkness.

I am, at this time, contemplating the creation, in Braille of an exact replica of the Declaration of Independence incorporating the Liberty Bell, painted in bronze, and the Governmental Seal in gold and American blue, the document bearing the signature of its original counterpart. I should like very much to present it as a gift to the Government in your honor as a mark of my personal esteem, you may then choose its most appropriate permanent place on the wall of history.

If, in any small measure this may be helpful as a gesture of your awareness of the existence of those among us who live in total darkness and as a token of concern of their rights of our common inheritance, that would certainly add to the purpose of this offer to you, further, if such a gesture can stir the spirituality of our nationalistic society the document will have served a three-fold purpose.

I would appreciate hearing from you regarding this matter and I suggest hope the idea is receptive.

With my kindest best wishes to you and your fine family.

I hope to remain,

[Signature]

[Address]

Mrs. Ford

P.S. 121 1977 Telephone: 917-777-5600
Manhattanville College
Department of Special Education
625 DeWitt Clinton Ave.
July 31, 1975

Theodore C. Harris
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Harris:

An apology is due for the long delay in acknowledging your very kind letter of June 27, 1975. A souvenier and lecture tour intervened and this is my first opportunity to write to you regarding the brailled replica of the Declaration of Independence which I suggested to the President for his Bicentennial display.

It pleases me immensely that the idea appealed to the President and I am confident that the completed document will not only serve the purpose which inspired it, but will also be a thing of beauty to the seeing eye as well as a conversation piece to all viewers.

The offer came out of my esteem for the President's human qualities and what he, as our leader, represents by precept and example to a nation so recently torn asunder. The family is the launching pad for a concept of loyalty to the whole of our species—a concept which in itself can save us from an innumerable self-destruction so much at variance with the glory of our daily seen rendezvous with infinity.

In your letter you state that plans are already underway for insurance of an appropriate display of bicentennial gifts. Perhaps it would be proper for me to state that as near as I can tell at this time, the completed document will be approximately 1975.

Would you kindly let me know what it should be delivered. Since it is such a meticulous piece of work I am planning to present it in person and also for the purpose of explaining its proper interpretation.

Very sincerely yours,

[signature]

Charlotte Sagan Goldblatt
Mrs. E.S.S.