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## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

JUL 12 1975

July 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

ATTENTION:

LARRY SPEAKES

FROM:

MIKE FARRELL 

SUBJECT:

White House Visiting Hours  
during the Bicentennial

At the request of the President and Mrs. Ford the White House visiting hours during 1976 will be expanded in accordance with the schedule outlined below to accommodate the increased number of visitors expected in our Nation's Capital during the Bicentennial.

1. Saturdays

The visiting hours on Saturday will be extended until 2:00 p.m. beginning Saturday, March 27, 1976 through Saturday, October 2, 1976. (Presently the White House is open until 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays during June, July and August).

2. Tuesdays through Fridays

Beginning March 30, 1976 through October 1, 1976, the White House will stay open beyond 12 noon Tuesday through Friday whenever the official schedule in the afternoon permits. A visitors waiting area is being established by the National Park Service during that time on the Ellipse. This will allow visitors to be more comfortably accommodated while they wait to tour the White House. The closing time each day will be posted at the White House gates and at the visitors waiting area on the Ellipse. We expect that our closing time on most days will be 1:00/1:30 p.m. (Special Note: These hours should take care of everyone who wishes to see the White House as the present practice of admitting everyone in line by closing time will be continued, thereby avoiding closing the gate to anyone who has been waiting).

Continued. . .

MEMORANDUM

Page Two

July 7, 1975

3. Garden Tours

Mrs. Ford will sponsor an increased number of garden tours to make the grounds more generally available. The White House gardens and grounds will be open to the public one weekend each month (Saturday and Sunday afternoon), beginning with April and continuing through October. Specific dates and times will be announced later.

Thank you.

cc: f.y.i. Jim Connor  
Max Friedersdorf  
Ted Marrs  
Jack Marsh ✓  
Sheila Weidenfeld

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *R*

Jack, Mike Farrell tells me that, in a recent memo to him, you noted that the President had made inquiry concerning the possibility of live entertainment for the White House visitors during their waiting period in the bleachers. Mike called to advise me that, under the direction of the National Park Service, all kinds of live entertainment has been lined up.

The entertainment consists of every imaginable type of marching band, college choir, youth groups, etc. In addition, they have gotten commitments from the respective concert bands of the various military services, to perform four times a week during the height of the tourist season.

Every effort has been made to secure high quality participants in this entertainment.

You will recall that, during our recent "in house" Bicentennial Task Force meeting, someone commented on the "hard rock" music. Mike reports that only minimal representation will be afforded such "hard rock" groups.

It must be borne in mind that this is a very low budget operation, and is mostly done on an "all volunteer" basis. Despite this fact, Mike anticipates a high caliber of entertainment through-out the season.

It is anticipated that, during the trial period, nonstop live entertainment can be provided from 9:30 to 12:00 each morning.

Mike commended the National Park Service for the outstanding job it was doing on this project.

*Bucer.*

October 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: MIKE FARRELL  
FROM: JACK MARSH

In a meeting this week with the President, he commented in a most favorable way on the bleachers program for White House visitors. He was quite complimentary, and has been following this with considerable interest.

In commenting on the program, he raised the question as to whether or not there might be arranged some type of program in the form of entertainment, which would be both interesting and educational. This came up in the context of conversation about the Bicentennial, and, therefore, I am sending a copy of this to Ted Marra.

I am sure that attention is being given to this, but I did want you to know of the President's interest, and particularly his suggestion to see if a program could be developed for these visitors. In this regard is it possible to have some type of film presentation or other visual display which would be suitable. I realize that the outdoor environment presents a film problem.

Although I am sure there are many problems, nevertheless is it worth considering some type of live performance, particularly during the warm season. Perhaps we can discuss this, and I particularly would like to hear from you about any plans the National Capital Parks might have on this subject.

cc: TMarra  
JOM:CB




THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL WHITE HOUSE/OEOB STAFF

FROM: MIKE FARRELL 

SUBJECT: White House Visitors Waiting Area, Ellipse  
Trial Program  
October 7, 1975 - November 1, 1975

To better accommodate visitors to the White House during our Bicentennial, a Visitors Waiting Area is being established on the Ellipse in cooperation with the National Park Service.

To determine the best approach for next spring and summer, there will be a trial period October 7 through November 1 of this year. Note: The visiting hours during this trial program will remain the same, 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon, Tuesday through Saturday. There will be no change in procedures for the early morning special tour. However, whenever we are unable to accommodate your guests on the special tour, we hope you will encourage them to take advantage of this tour which is not by reservation.

The following information should be helpful to visitors during the trial program:

1. Kindly direct visitors to the Ellipse, south of the White House, not to the East Gate.
2. Ticket booths will open at 8:00 a.m. each day, Tuesday through Saturday, and will remain open until 12 noon. Visitors may obtain tickets the morning of the tour only.
3. Each visitor will be issued a ticket specifying the time of the tour. Visitors may then leave the park, visit other attractions, and return at the indicated time. They may also choose to view the entertainment program (9:30 a.m. to 12 noon). Bleachers will be available.

October 28, 1975

Bacon

MEMORANDUM TO: MIKE FARRELL  
FROM: JACK MARSH

Mike, many thanks for your memo and your further amplification on Russ Rourke's verbal report regarding the outstanding job that is being done to provide live entertainment for our White House visitors, during their waiting period.

I have just one further comment, Mike. In my conversation with the President, he specifically suggested that, if possible, portions of the entertainment have a "Bicentennial flavor". I recognize fully the practical difficulties that such a request might present. If, however, a "Bicentennial flavor" can be worked into the programs from time to time, it would be extremely helpful.

Once again, congratulations on a job well done.

JOM:cb



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



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~~1. Show II am~~

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B. Cant. pitch.  
II made that  
suggestion in  
that context.  
M



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *R*

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 3, 1975

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Trial Program  
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*Bicentennial*  
*Crossed*  
*Farrell*

November 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MIKE FARRELL  
FROM: JACK MARSH  
SUBJECT: Visitors Waiting Area, Ellipse

I showed the President your memorandum of October 21 in reference to the Visitors Waiting Area.

He was most pleased and very complimentary of your efforts.

JOM/dl



*It has been seen.*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

①  
OCT 23 1975

October 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

MIKE FARRELL *MF*

SUBJECT:

Visitors Waiting Area, Ellipse

Thank you very much for making me aware of the President's favorable comments on the Visitors Waiting Area program. The plan presently is to have live entertainment beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day and continuing throughout the tour hours next spring and summer. Attached is a copy of the groups that have been scheduled to perform during the October trial program. As you can see, the majority of the groups are from this area since fall is not the time when high school and college units travel here from across the country.

I met with the National Park Service today to evaluate the performances we have had to date. Considering the large open area, the most successful performances have generally been ones given by large performing units such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Band, high school or college bands, etc. Quartets and other small units do not appear to have sufficient impact.

It appears there will be no problem having a full schedule of live entertainment for next year. The National Park Service presently has a commitment for next year from the Armed Services for four hours of performances each week from their top units such as the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the various concert bands. In addition, the Park Service will defer making final commitments for dates next year until a substantial number of requests has been received so that the best can be selected. They will schedule groups from all parts of the country next year and will also select entertainment with the broadest appeal.

I have checked into the availability of one film presentation which has been used by the Travel Service in cooperation with Disney Productions. The



theater is an inflatable one which seats about 700. Unfortunately, that capacity is not nearly sufficient to accommodate the numbers we expect each day next year. I will talk with the Park Service to determine if there is any other film presentation which might be utilized outside and will let you know. Since one aspect of this system for next year is to permit people to leave the Ellipse area and return at the appointed time for the tour, perhaps a good film presentation could be utilized in the Visitors Center at the Department of Commerce. Milt Mitler has given me a report on the plans for that. Since Commerce is conveniently located for visitors on the Ellipse, we will plan to encourage people to take advantage of it.

If you have the opportunity, you might also wish to assure the President that the bleachers will be covered next year to provide protection against the sun and inclement weather.

I will make sure to keep you informed on this, particularly if any problems should develop.

Thank you.

Attachment

cc: Jim Connor  
Ted Marrs



WHITE HOUSE VISITORS WAITING AREA

Trail Period - Tuesdays through Saturdays, October 7 through Nov. 1, 1975  
Schedule of performing groups as of October 1, 1975

Tuesday, October 7

9:30 - 10:30 The Hayfield Chorale  
Mr. Falle Nelson  
Hayfield Secondary School  
7630 Telegraph Road  
Alexandria, Va. 22310  
Tel: 971-8920 (S)  
560-3777 (H)

11-12 The Gospel Heralds  
Mr. Ray Dement  
Herald Fabrication, Inc.  
166 W. Bowie Ave.  
Rockville, Md. 20852  
Tel: 881-6077

Wednesday, October 8

9:30 - 10:30 Friendly Senior High  
School Band  
Mr. Philip Simon  
10000 Allen Town Rd.  
Oxon Hill, Md. 20022  
Tel: 248-5400

11-12 Frederick High School Band  
Mr. John Slezak  
Frederick High School  
Frederick, Md. 21701  
Tel: (301) 662-9200, Ext.284

Thursday, October 9

9:30 - 10:30 Maycroft Square Tappers  
Mr. Gene Maycroft  
947 West Street  
Muskegan, Michigan 49442  
Tel: (616) 773-3782

11-12 Paul Jr. High Choir  
Mr. James E. Hall  
8th and Ogelthorpe St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
Tel: 629-7137

Friday, October 10

9:30 - 10:30 Poor Richard's Theatre  
Mr. Bill Bair  
4777 N. 23rd Street  
Arlington, Va. 22207  
Tel: 841-0675

11-12 Spingarn High School Chorus  
Mr. Paul Gatling  
24th and Benning Rd., N.E.  
Washington, D.C.  
Tel: 629-6144

Saturday, October 11

9:30 - 10:30 John Hanson Patriots Fife  
and Drum Corp.  
Mr. John Willet  
Nanjemoy, Md. 20662  
Tel: (301) 246-4633

11-12 Royal Canadian Mounted  
Police Band  
R.C.M.P. Band  
P.O. Box 8900  
Ottawa, Canada

Tuesday, October 14

9:30 - 10:30 Northwestern High  
School Band  
Mr. Michael Ronca  
Northwestern High School  
Adelphi Road  
Hyattsville, Md. 20782  
Tel: 779-5400(S)  
277-9885(H)

11-12 Aberdeen Senior High School  
Band  
Mr. Jack Scott  
Aberdeen Senior High School  
Aberdeen, Md. 21001  
Tel: (301) 272-7600

Wednesday, October 15

9:30 - 10:30 Acheasus Theater Inc.  
Mr. Gary Young  
Suite 747  
2939 Van Ness  
Washington, D.C. 20008

11-12 Laurel Senior High  
Symphonic Band  
Mr. Harvey Beaver  
6303 Queen's Chapel Road  
Hyattsville, Md. 20782  
Tel: 927-7373

Thursday, October 16

9:30 - 10:30 Calvin Coolidge Senior High  
Chorus and Band  
Mr. Slaughter  
Calvin Coolidge Senior High  
School  
5th and Tuckerman Street, NW.  
Washington, D. C. 20011  
Tel: 629-7054/5/6

11-12 Alice Deal 9th Grade Chorus  
Mrs. Lois Nicholson  
Alice Deal Jr. High School  
Ft. Drive & Nebraska Ave., N.W  
Washington, D.C.

Friday, October 17

9:30 - 10:30 McKinley High School Concert  
Chorus  
Mr. Peter Ford  
2nd and T Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

11-12 Dawn Crafton Dancers  
Ms. Dawn Crafton  
13203 Vandalia Drive  
Rockville, Md. 20853  
Tel: 933-3160

Saturday, October 18

Barbershop Quartet  
9:15 - 9:45 The Marylandaires  
Mr. Daryl James  
Tel: 894-9388

10:30-11:30 The Morgan Dancers  
Mrs. Day  
4440 Ord Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20019  
Tel: 484-7796

9:45 - 10:15 The Singing Capital Chorus  
Mr. Joseph Hall  
Tel: 871-7667



Tuesday, October 21

9:30 - 10:30 Perry Hall High School Band and Choir Ms. Mildred Reiner 4601 Ebenezer Road Baltimore, Md. 21236 Tel: (301) 256-6933	11-12 Parkdale Senior High School Band Mr. Ed. Kerman Parkdale Senior High School 6001 Good Luck Road Riverdale, Md. 20840 Tel: 474-4700, Ext. 61
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Wednesday, October 22

9:30 - 10:30 Howard High School Band Mr. Jim Johnston Howard High School 8700 Old Annapolis Road Ellicott City, Md. 21043 Tel: (301) 465-4747	11-12 Manor High School Choir Ms. Harriet C. Heath Manor High School 24 Early Drive Portsmouth, Va. 23701 Tel: (804) 488-4446
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Thursday, October 23

9:30 - 10:30 Annapolis Jr. High School Band Ms. Alice Harper Forest Dr. and Spa Rd. Annapolis, Md. 21403 Tel: (301) 267-8658	10:30 - 11:45 Northwest High School Concert Chorus Mrs. Helen Bishop Northwest High School Adelphi Road Hyattsville, Md. 20782 Tel: 927-7373
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Friday, October 24

9:30 - 10:30 St. Timothy School of Dance Ms. Gale Whalen 3601 Alabama Ave., S.E. Washington, D.C. 20020 Tel: 582-6318 (H) 582-7740 (S)	11-12 Denbigh High School Band Denbigh High School Newport News, Va. 23602
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Saturday, October 25

9:30 - 10:00 Jubra Ms. Junie Pollard Georgetown Visitation Prep. School 35th and Volta Street, NW. Washington, D.C. Tel: 426-6770	10:30 - 11:30 Bowie Senior High School Mr. Gustin 15200 Annapolis Road Bowie, Md. 20215 Tel: 464-8433
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Tuesday, October 28

9:30 - 10:30 Paul Lawrence Dunbar Community High School Band and Choir Mr. Hugh Carey 5018 Plymouth Rd. Baltimore, Md. 21214 Tel: (212) 396-9624 (212) 426-3319	11-12 South Senior High School Concert Chorus Ms. Jane Daugherty 503 Monterey Avenue Annapolis, Md. 21401 Tel: (301) 263-4403 (H) (301) 867-2600 (S)
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Wednesday, October 29

9:30 - 10:30 Duval Senior High School Madrigal Singers Mr. Lewis 8150 Lakecrest Drive Apartment 03 Greenbelt, Md. 20215	11-12 Menchville High School Band Mr. David E. Solomon Menchville High School 306 Dominion Drive Newport News, Va. 23602 Tel: 474-8794 (H) 794-7700 (S)
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Thursday, October 30

9:30 - 10:30 Hampton High School Choir Mr. Sidney R. Swiggett 226 Prince James Drive Hampton, Va. 23669 Tel: (804) 838-0655	11-12 Crossland High School Symphonic Band Mr. Richard Bergman Crossland High School Temple Hills and Allentown Rd. Camp Springs, Md. 20028 Tel: 248-8875
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Friday, October 31

10:00 - 11:00 McGogney Elementary School Choir Ms. Constance Smith McGogney Elementary School 3400 Wheeler Road, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20032 Tel: 629-8541	11:15-12 Parkdale Senior High School Choir Mr. Nonnemacher Parkdale Senior High School 6001 Goodluck Road Riverdale, Md. 20840 Tel: 474-4700
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Saturday - November 1

Barbershop Quartets 10:45-11:45	Grace Baptist Youth Choir
9:30 - 10:00 The Arlingtones Mr. Malcom J. Agnew Tel: 538-5688	Ms. Jackie Byrd 12308 Stafford La. Lee, Maryland 20715 Tel: 464-0024
10:00 - 10:30 The Knights of Harmony Mr. Richard E. Baldauf Tel: 474-6866	

*Crossed Farrell  
(Backup)*

January 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MIKE FARRELL

FROM: JACK MARSH

I am returning the attached Certification of Appreciation to you. I brought this to the President's attention. He was very pleased and would like to be kept abreast on other developments in reference to the Visitors Center. He also indicated he would be glad to drop by the Visitors Center on one or more occasions.

Many thanks.


JOM/dl



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL WHITE HOUSE/OEOB STAFF

FROM: MIKE FARRELL 

SUBJECT: White House Visitors Waiting Area, Ellipse  
March 16, 1976 - October 23, 1976


To better accommodate visitors during our Bicentennial, the Visitors Waiting Area will be established on the Ellipse during the above time. There will be no change in procedures for the early morning special tour. Whenever we are unable to accommodate your guests on the special tour, we hope you will encourage them to take advantage of the later public tour.

The following information should be helpful:

During the above 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.

Thank you.



MAR 17 1976

*Senior Staff Mtg.*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1976

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