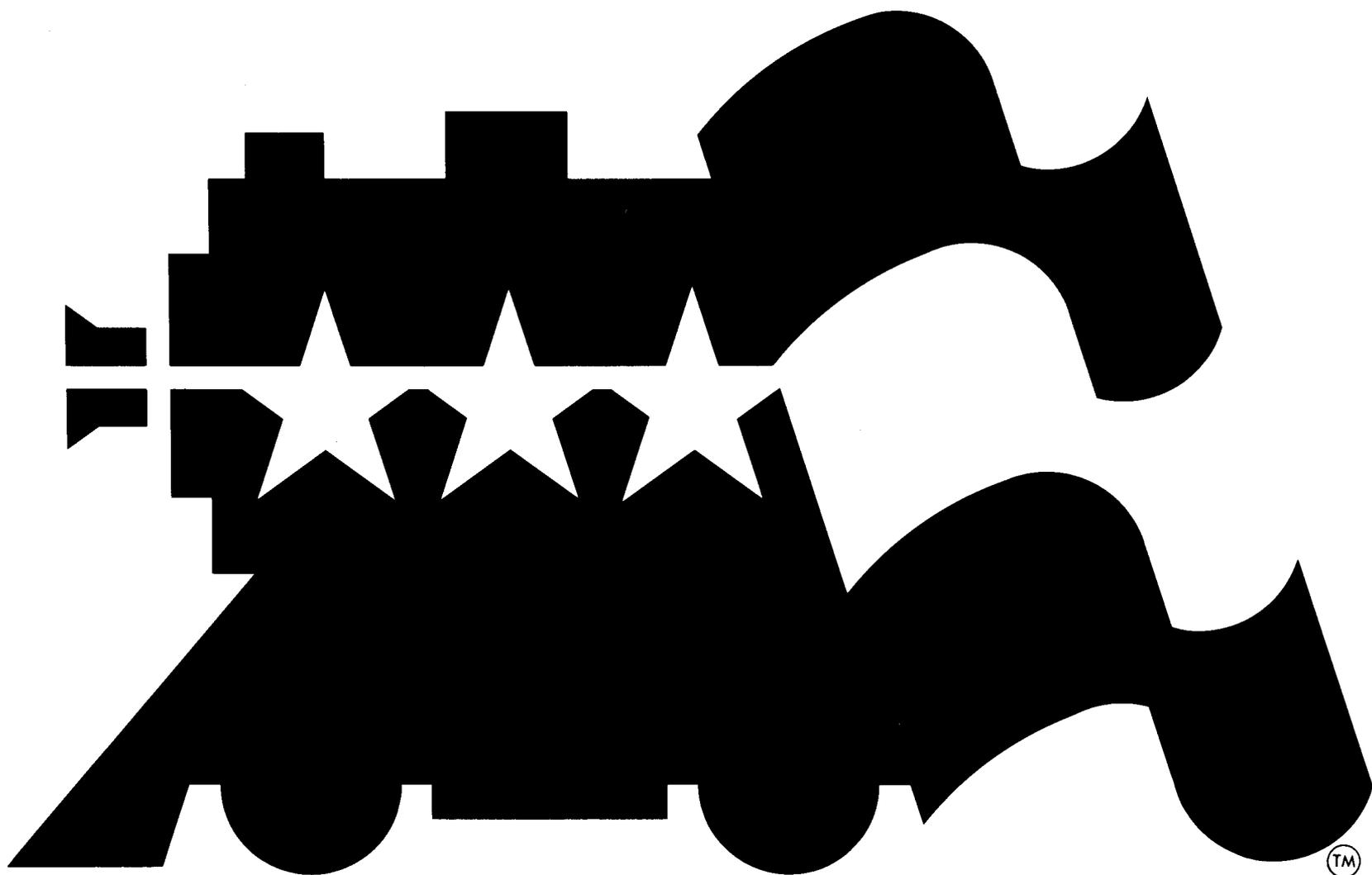


**The original documents are located in Box 64, folder “American Freedom Train (2)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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**AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN**

12/12/74

2:30 pm

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE AT THE  
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT CEREMONY  
OF THE  
AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN

Alexandria Railway Station  
Thursday, December 19, 1974

10:30 am      The President boards motorcade on South Grounds.  
(EST)

MOTORCADE DEPARTS South Grounds en route  
Alexandria Railway Station, Alexandria, Virginia.

[Driving time: 15 minutes]

10:45 am      MOTORCADE ARRIVES Alexandria Railway Station.

10:45 am      "Ruffles and Flourishes"  
Announcement  
"Hail to the Chief"

10:46 am      The President proceeds onto the platform of the  
Observation Car of the American Freedom Train  
and is seated.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE  
CROWD SITUATION

10:47 am      Welcoming remarks and introduction of John  
Warner, ARBA Administrator, by Master  
of Ceremonies.

10:49 am      Remarks by John Warner and presentation of  
the Official ARBA Seal to Jon Foust, President  
of the American Freedom Train Foundation, Inc.

- 10:53 am Acceptance remarks by Jon Foust.
- 10:54 am Introduction of Don Kendall, Chairman of the Board of Pepsi Co, Inc., by the Master of Ceremonies.
- 10:55 am Remarks by Don Kendall, concluding in the introduction of the President.

~~NOTE: An effort to have Lady Bird Johnson attend is underway, in which case she would be introduced during this portion for remarks. This would add five minutes to the overall program.~~

- 11:00 am Presidential remarks.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

- 11:05 am Remarks conclude.

The President asks Don Kendall to step to the podium and presents him with George Washington's copy of the Constitution for the American Freedom Train.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

~~NOTE: If Lady Bird Johnson is present, she would join Don Kendall in receiving the copy of the Constitution.~~

- 11:07 am Brief acceptance and thank you to the President and guests for attending by Don Kendall.

- 11:08 am "Stars and Stripes Forever."

- 11:08 am The President, escorted by Don Kendall, departs platform and proceeds to motorcade for boarding.

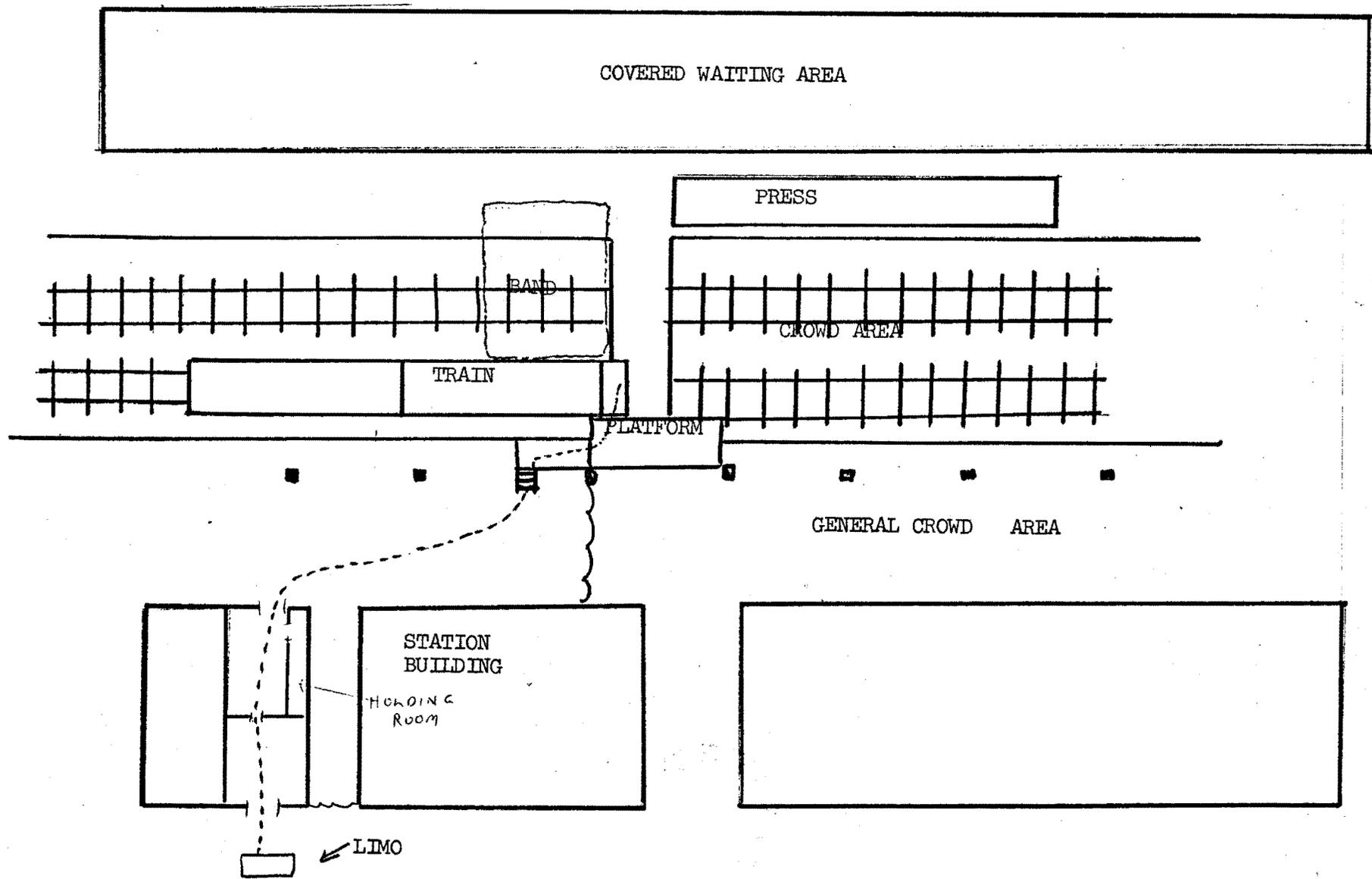
- 11:10 am MOTORCADE DEPARTS Alexandria Railway Station en route South Grounds.

[Driving time: 15 minutes]

- 11:25 am MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.

ALEXANDRIA TRAIN STATION AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN  
December 19. 1974

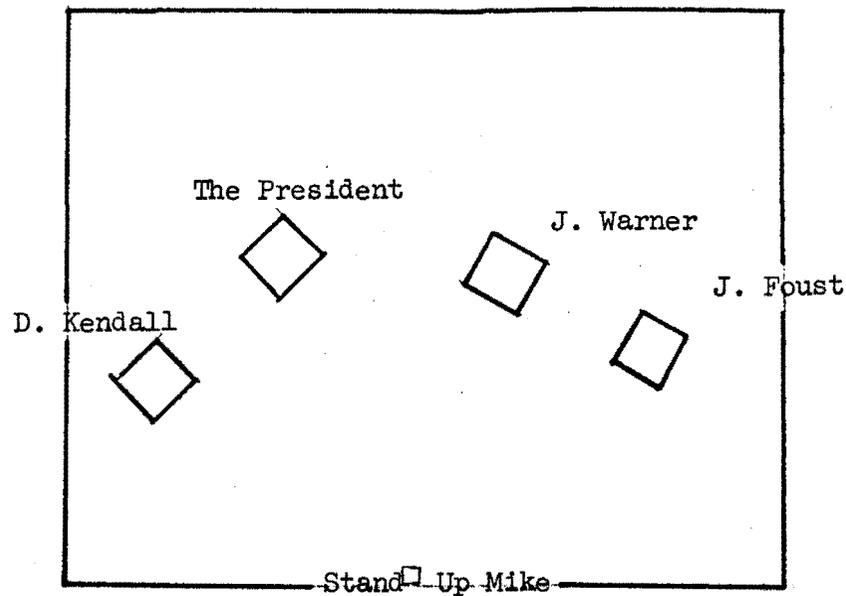
16 DEC 74  
3:45 P.M.



18 Dec  
7:45 A.M.

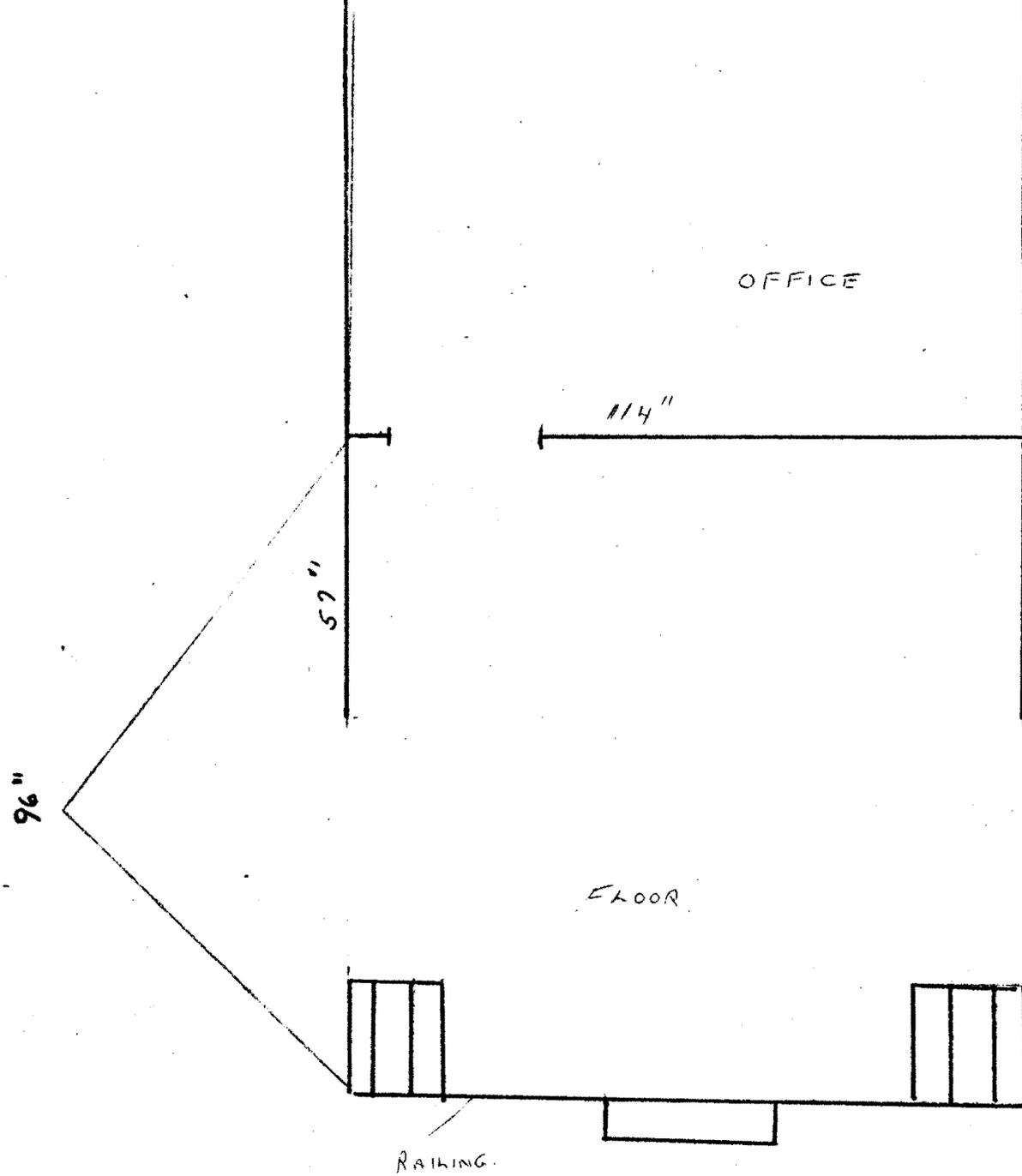
AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN ALEXANDRIA STATION

REAR TRAIN OBSERVATION PLATFORM



AUDIENCE

FREEDOM TRAIN.  
CAR 4.  
16 DEC 74  
4:00 P.M



SPECIFICATIONS

FLOOR TO RAILING TOP	36"
RAILING TOP TO CEILING	46"
FLOOR TO TRACK	49"
FLOOR TO CEILING	82"
ROOF UNDERSIDE TO TRACK	129"
LENGTH OF CAR	70'



# NEWS RELEASE FROM THE FREEDOM TRAIN

CONTACT: Al Bruce  
703- 820-7300

## THE AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN

### News Media Background

In April 1975, a giant steam engine, a colorful reminder from America's golden age of railroads, will power out of Wilmington, Delaware pulling 22 glistening red, white and blue cars filled with the history of America.

The American Freedom Train will have begun its historic two-year journey in celebration of the American Revolution Bicentennial.

From Wilmington, the capital of the first state to ratify the Constitution, the Freedom Train will journey to Boston, where it will participate in the celebration April 18 of the battle at Lexington, where the nation's fight for freedom began.

Before the journey is over, more than ten million Americans will have boarded the train and experienced its magnificent displays. It will have traveled more than 17,000 miles through thousands of American communities and will have been viewed along the way by 40 to 50 million Americans and made stops in 76 cities. During its journey it will have been within a one-hour driving distance of 90 percent of the nation's population.

This extraordinary project, which promises to be one of the most colorful and exciting of all Bicentennial activities, was

created and is managed by private citizens in a tax-exempt public foundation located in Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia, The American Freedom Train Foundation.

#### Origins of the Freedom Train

Back in 1947 there was an earlier version of the American Freedom Train sponsored by the American Heritage Foundation. It logged 37,160 miles in its travels across the country, stopping in every one of the then 48 states.

It was an enormous success, playing host to more than 3,500,000 visitors during its 16 month tour. The train had seven cars (only three of which housed exhibits), was painted gleaming white with bands of red and blue and was powered by a 2,000 h.p. diesel engine.

That Freedom Train could take in only 640 people an hour and, as a result, the wait to board was often long and discouraging (a problem solved in the 1975 version). On the stopover in New York City, for example, people waited four abreast on a line that was 15 blocks long.

The idea for a Bicentennial "Freedom Train" came from Ross Rowland, a 35-year old commodity broker with a passion for rail-roading. In 1966 Mr. Rowland formed the High Iron Company, Inc. to restore and operate a mainline steam locomotive. High Iron ran a variety of public excursions including the "Golden Spike Centennial Limited," which marked the 100th Anniversary of the linking of the United States by rail.

After this successful venture, Mr. Rowland created the idea for the Bicentennial Freedom Train. By 1974 he had just about given up on the project when he made a presentation to Pepsi-Cola Company. The idea soon caught the ear of Donald Kendall, Chairman of PepsiCo, Inc., and the project was underway. Three more public-spirited corporations, General Motors Corporation, Prudential Insurance Company of America and Kraft Foods donated one million dollars each and the Freedom Train was on the tracks. In announcing their donation of \$4 million over a two-year period, they said:

"The American Freedom Train will bring the Bicentennial to almost everyone's home town. We can think of no better way to celebrate the country's 200th birthday.

The most meaningful way to appreciate the vitality of our country today, is to examine its heritage by reflecting into its past. The Bicentennial is the perfect time -- and the local community is the perfect place.

In making our grant to initiate this project, we recognize that no single display or exhibit can capture all that is America. Our best hope is that the American Freedom Train will stimulate both pride and celebration."

### The Freedom Train - On Tour

The Engine: The Foundation is currently examining several steam locomotives to pull the Freedom Train. A locomotive will be restored and painted American Freedom Train colors.

In addition to the engine and tender there will be 22 cars, 12 of which will be used for displays and exhibits. The other cars will be used for tools and equipment, security, support services and housing of personnel needed to man the train.

### Inside the Freedom Train

Inside the train, visitors will travel through each of the 10 exhibit cars on a moving walkway at a rate of 2,000 people each hour for 14 hours each day. They will carry a transistorized sound unit which plays a running narration coordinated with the exhibits.

With the assistance and cooperation of many organizations, the staff of the American Freedom Train Foundation is assembling an impressive array of historical documents and artifacts--each one selected for its integration with the theme of each exhibit car. The following is a brief description of the exhibit cars:

Car #1 THE BEGINNING: A look at the first moments of the struggle for independence from the profile of an 18th century New England street. Visitors will view an exhibit that includes precious documents that are the foundation of our liberty, such as George Washington's copy of the Constitution and Pennsylvania's Ratification of the Constitution.

Car #2 EXPLORATION AND EXPANSION: A discussion of American frontiers from the opening of the West to the penetration of deep space. Moon rocks and Conestoga wagons point out the American desire for new horizons.

Car #3 GROWTH OF THE NATION: Changes wrought on this country as cities, farms, transportation centers and energy production have been added to the early landscape. America the Beautiful provides a musical background for the vitality of the Nation's growth.

Car #4 ORIGINS: Tracing the ethnic, national and geographical origins of contemporary Americans. The music of dozens of lands speaks of this land of opportunity.

Car #5 INNOVATIONS: A review of the inventors and technicians whose efforts are synonymous with "American know-how" and the development of our free enterprise system and the American we know today. Patent drawings and models of inventions big and small are displayed.

Car #6 PROFESSIONS: An examination of the diversity and magnitude of fields of making Americans and the products of their work. The pursuits of Americans, from silversmiths and glassblowers to film makers and scientists, are outlined.

Car #7 SPORTS: A panorama of the sporting American as hero, participant, and spectator. Scenes from a sports-loving country include a sprinting Jesse Owens, Secretariat romping to victory, and Babe Ruth batting a home run.

Car #8 PERFORMING ARTS: A montage of American talent through vaudeville, Hollywood, radio and television--and through it all, the great Broadway stage. The sounds of entertainment, from television to vaudeville, provide a musical backdrop for this dramatic part of America.

Car #9 FINE ARTS: A gallery of American painting and sculpture reflecting the evolution of American society. A gallery of priceless paintings and sculpture capture the look of our country from 18th century portraiture through sweeping western landscapes.

Car #10 CONFLICT AND RESOLUTION: A dramatic portrayal of five events in American history which have tested the fiber of our system but from which Americans have emerged stronger and more unified. From Lincoln's assassination through President Roosevelt's economic strife, the ability of a people to growth portrayed.

SHOWCASE CARS: The first of two glass-enclosed display cars, deal with transportation and contains--a series of wheeled vehicles lending additional testimony to American progress. The second car contains the Freedom Bell, which is twice the size of the original Liberty Bell and will be built through support of the American Legion on behalf of the nation's children.

Outside the Freedom Train

Going through communities in which there is no scheduled stop, the train will travel slowly wherever possible so that crowds gathered by the side of the tracks can at least glimpse the excitement of the train.

The two glass-enclosed display cars, featuring developments in transportation and the Freedom Bell, will be plainly visible from trackside. In addition each of the other exhibit cars will have four giant windows. There are 20 pairs of windows in all, each pair dedicated to a decade in the nation's 200-year history.

At each scheduled stop a stage will be set up for the entertainment of the waiting crowds and for local celebrations and ceremonies. Local organizations such as cultural, entertainment, museum and historical groups are currently working with the Foundation to set up displays.

### Historical Artifacts

A blue ribbon committee of consultants has been formed to advise the Foundation what should be featured aboard the train. The panel includes such men as: Oliver Jensen, Editor, American Heritage Magazine; Dr. Milton Klein, Professor of American History, University of Tennessee; Dr. Joshua Taylor, Curator, National Portrait Gallery; Dr. Bernard Finn, Curator Electricity, The Smithsonian Institution; Curt Gowdy, NBC-TV Sports; and others.

Working in conjunction with organizations such as the National Archives, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Smithsonian, and the National Gallery of Art, the Foundation has received numerous commitments for artifacts such as:

Benjamin Franklin's draft of the Articles of Confederation

George Washington's copy of the Constitution

Delaware's Ratification of the Bill of Rights

Pennsylvania's Ratification of the Constitution

Moon rock, moon flag, and landing tape

The first Bible printed in the United States

More than 500 of these historical documents and memorabilia collected from museums, historical societies, and individuals throughout the United States will reflect American achievements in nearly every aspect of life.

#### The Freedom Bell

A major exhibit of the American Freedom Train is the Freedom Bell. The Freedom Bell will be twice the size of the Liberty Bell in honor of the country's 200th birthday.

The American Legion, on behalf of the nation's children, will donate funds necessary to build and exhibit the Freedom Bell.

The Foundation is exploring a permanent exhibit site for the Freedom Bell in the Nation's Capitol.

#### Security

To guard both the Freedom Train and the historical documents aboard the train, a sophisticated security system has been designed.

#### Admission and Memorabilia Sale

Tickets will be priced at \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for children. A portion of the advance ticket sales in each locale will be returned to that city for local Bicentennial activities. The Foundation, in its attempts to limit commercialism, will sell only high quality memorabilia of the Freedom Train visit.

#### The Preamble Express

The logistics involved with the American Freedom Train are so complex that it was necessary to run a preliminary train across the United States in 1974 to coordinate the advance planning.

The red, white and blue "Preamble Express" left Boston on July 9 and visited every one of the 76 display sites.

Aboard the "Preamble Express" was a group of specialists who investigated track conditions, display sites, security plans and local and state activities planned around the Bicentennial. Those specialists are developing final Freedom Train plans.

#### The American Freedom Train Foundation - Organization

The American Freedom Train Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, non-political, public foundation chartered in Massachusetts. Its main office is located in Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia. All money collected by the organization, not used in the running of the Freedom Train, will be donated for charitable purposes.

The first step in managing the project was to develop an organization. Much of the creative work had been accomplished, but many details had to be worked out, including scheduling of the train, tie-in with local celebrations, collecting of significant American historical artifacts, security, cash flow and train personnel. To handle this project, Jon A. Foust, former Assistant Director of the National Parks Service, was named President and Chief Executive Officer.

Other members of the staff are:

1. Michael A. McManus, Jr.--Executive Vice President and General Counsel. A lawyer formerly with Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, New York City
2. Thomas R. Ames--Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, who was Vice President-Financial Officer for Bank of the Commonwealth, Detroit

3. G. Allan Walker, Jr.--Senior Vice President for Operations, former Manager of Wells, Walker & Co. and Wells Realty and Construction Co., Nashua, New Hampshire
4. Alfred D. Bruce--Vice President for Communications, formerly Vice President-Director of Public Relations, Washington Branch of Ketchum, MacLeod & Grove, Inc.
5. Mimi Austin--Vice President for Resource Development, who was with Overseas Exhibition Staff of the Department of Commerce
6. George Strongman--Vice President of Field Operations, formerly Engagement Director for Ringling Bros.
7. Ruth Packard--Vice President of Artifacts
8. John Manning--Vice President of Security, who was with the FBI for more than 20 years

CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIERS

The Freedom Train exhibit and display cars are being reconstructed in Richmond, California and Venice, Florida.

The moving walkway is being engineered by and installed under the supervision of The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio.

The sound system is being engineered by By-Word Corporation, Armonk, New York.

Exhibit fabricators include G.R.S. & W., Inc. of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and General Exhibits of Chicago, Illinois.

# # #



# NEWS RELEASE FROM THE FREEDOM TRAIN

CONTACT: Al Bruce  
703-820-7300

## DOCUMENTS AND ARTIFACTS ON THE AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN

Following is a partial list of documents and artifacts from the American Freedom Train. The list shows the variety of materials and Freedom Train will display.

Nobel Peace Prize  
Benjamin Franklin's draft of the Articles of Confederation  
Paul Revere's Saddlebags  
Revolutionary rifles and muskets  
George Washington's copy of the Constitution  
Delaware's ratification of the Bill of Rights  
Pennsylvania's Ratification of the Constitution  
The First Bible printed in America  
Original Louisiana Purchase Agreement  
Gold miners' tools circa 1850  
Headlights from 1860 railroad locomotive  
Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation  
Indian artifacts, including: Hopi Kachina Doll, Totem Poles, Navajo Yei Blanket  
Original Barnum & Bailey Poster - 1903  
Old scientific instruments  
Baseball bats of Ty Cobb, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams  
Crystal radio set  
President Roosevelt's speech to Congress after Pearl Harbor Day  
President Kennedy's handwritten draft of his inaugural speech  
Dr. Martin Luther King's vestment robe and bible  
Moon rocks, moon flag, and landing tape from NASA  
60 original patents including household items, industrial equipment, transportation, agriculture and communications  
Tennis rackets, trophies such as Davis Cup and Wightman Cup  
Basketball equipment belonging to Chamberlain, Russell, Jabbar, Cousy and Mikan



# NEWS RELEASE FROM THE FREEDOM TRAIN

CONTACT: Al Bruce  
703-820-7300

## Tentative Schedule

### American Freedom Train

1975

Wilmington	April 1
Boston	April 8
Portland	April 22
Manchester	April 25
Burlington	April 29
Albany	May 2
Rochester	May 7
Cleveland	May 14
Columbus	May 22
Cincinnati	June 4
Indianapolis	June 12
Detroit	June 24
Grand Rapids	July 11
Kalamazoo	July 14
Peoria	July 18
Chicago	July 24
Madison	August 23
Minneapolis	August 27
Fargo	September 4
Sioux Falls	September 9
Des Moines	September 13
Omaha	September 17
Denver	September 23
Casper	September 30
Billings	October 3
Salt Lake City	October 8
Boise	October 15
Spokane	October 20
Seattle	October 24
Portland	November 4
Eugene	November 8
Reno	November 13
Sacramento	November 18
San Francisco	November 25
Fresno	December 9
Los Angeles area	December 16

1976

San Diego	January 8
Phoenix	January 17
Albuquerque	January 28
San Antonio	February 5
Austin	February 12
Houston	February 17
Ft. Worth	February 24
Dallas	March 2
Oklahoma City	March 12
Wichita	March 16
Kansas City	March 22
St. Louis	March 30
Little Rock	April 13
Memphis	April 20
Jackson	April 27
New Orleans	May 4
Birmingham	May 14
Nashville	May 20
Louisville	May 25
Charleston, W.Va.	June 3
Pittsburgh	June 9
Harrisburg	June 19
Philadelphia	June 24
New York	July 14
Providence	August 18
Hartford	August 24
Newark	August 28
Trenton	September 2
Baltimore	September 5
Washington, D.C.	September 16
Richmond	October 5
Norfolk	October 12
Roanoke	October 19
Raleigh	October 26
Charlotte	November 5
Atlanta	November 10
Charleston, S.C.	November 23
Savannah	November 29
Jacksonville	December 4
Orlando	December 14
Tampa	December 17
Miami	December 23





# NEWS RELEASE FROM THE FREEDOM TRAIN

CONTACT: Al Bruce  
703-820-7300

5205 Leesburg Pike, Suite 800  
Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia 22041

PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCES AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN TO CARRY HISTORIC EXHIBITS TO 48 STATES ON 17,000-MILE BICENTENNIAL TOUR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 -- President Ford today announced that the American Freedom Train, a steam-powered 22-car train displaying some of the nation's most treasured documents and artifacts, will begin a 21-month journey through the country next spring as a major part of the Bicentennial celebration.

President Ford called the Freedom Train "a unifying symbol of the heritage that has made America great."

John W. Warner, Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, recognized the Freedom Train as an official Bicentennial project by presenting a Bicentennial flag and certificate to Jon A. Foust, President of the American Freedom Train Foundation.

President Ford presented George Washington's copy of the Constitution to Donald M. Kendall, Chairman of the Board of PepsiCo, Inc. and Co-Chairman of the National Advisory Board of the American Freedom Train Foundation. The document, which is from the National Archives, will be displayed on the Freedom Train.

-more-

Mr. Kendall said the red-white-and-blue train, powered by a steam locomotive, itself a symbol of America's past, will journey through cities, towns and villages in each of the 48 contiguous States. It will be open for public viewing in more than 70 cities, each within an hour's drive for 90 percent of the country's population.

Sponsored by the non-profit American Freedom Train Foundation, the train is scheduled to begin its journey April 1st in Wilmington, Delaware, the capital of the first state to sign the Constitution. From there, the Freedom Train will journey to Boston, where it will participate in Patriots' Day on April 19, the 200th anniversary of the battle at Lexington.

Mr. Warner described the train as "one of the most significant-- certainly the most visible and national in scope -- of the many projects planned to honor America during the Bicentennial. The launching of the American Freedom Train not only embraces a dramatic summary of 200 years of America's progress and growth, but it represents a symbolic 'birthday gift' to the American people."

Mr. Kendall pointed out that the American Freedom Train was made possible by donations of \$4 million over a two-year period from four leaders in the business community: Pepsi-Cola Company, General Motors Corporation, Prudential Insurance Company of America and Kraft Foods. To cover operating cost, another \$13 million will be raised from individual donations and the sale of tickets and commemorative gifts. Only quality

memorabilia of the Freedom Train will be sold on the train. According to the charter of the Foundation, funds remaining after the train's tour will be donated for charitable purposes.

President Ford thanked the sponsors, stating "Your corporate contributions should inspire others to participate in the Bicentennial."

Mr. Kendall said the train would "bring America's historical past to almost everybody's home town. We can think of no better way to celebrate the Bicentennial of American liberty. It is one of the most exciting projects of the 200th anniversary, and we are pleased and proud to be associated with it."

Mr. Foust said the train will exhibit in 12 specially-designed cars a priceless collection of historical documents, artifacts and memorabilia gathered from leading museums and historical societies across the country. The National Archives, he continued, has agreed to loan a number of documents, among them George Washington's copy of the Constitution, which includes his marginal notes; Benjamin Franklin's draft of The Articles of the Confederation; Pennsylvania's ratification of The Constitution; Delaware's ratification of The Bill of Rights; and credentials of the Pennsylvania delegates to the Continental Congress, including those of Franklin.

Mr. Foust said the Foundation is examining several steam locomotives for use with the Freedom Train.

Once restored, the locomotive will be thoroughly tested and painted in official American Freedom Train colors.

The interior of each exhibit car will depict various facets of the American experience through two centuries, including the revolutionary period, exploration, cultures, technological progress, professions and trades, sports and the arts.

Moving walkways will carry an estimated 40 to 50 million visitors through the exhibit cars at a rate up to 2,000 people per hour over each 14-hour display day. Each visitor will carry a transistorized sound unit which will play a running narration coordinated with exhibits. The exhibit cars have specially constructed outside showcase windows that will display selected objects for people who will view the train as it passes through their communities, at reduced speed, en route to the display cities.

In addition, the train will have two "showcase cars" one of which will carry a Freedom Bell, which is twice the size of the original Liberty Bell and will be built through support of the American Legion on behalf of the nation's children. The American

Freedom Train Foundation is searching for a permanent exhibition site for the bell in the Nation's Capitol. The other showcase car will display rare vehicles depicting a history of American Transportation.

The Foundation is also discussing with the Flare Foundation for the Arts a possible program to bring artists and entertainers to many of the cities the Freedom Train will visit.

###

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY  
(Alexandria, Virginia)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN CERTIFICATION

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY STATION

10:45 A.M. EST

Thank you very much, John Warner, Don Kendell.

Let me say at the outset I am most grateful for the participation by the Jefferson High School Band and the T. C. Williams High School Band, and I thank very deeply those who have participated and made it possible for this Freedom Train to undertake its journey throughout the United States.

Obviously I am tremendously pleased to participate in the official ceremonies recognizing the American Freedom Train as a major Bicentennial effort.

When this train begins its 17,000 mile journey through 48 of our 50 States this spring, the Freedom Train will serve as one of the hopeful points for our Bicentennial commemoration.

It will visit 76 cities and give Americans a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view some of these historic national documents which relates directly to our history for the last 200 years.

I strongly urge parents and teachers to make sure that your children and students take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. The cargo on this train represents much of our Nation's past history and our hope for the future.

This exhibit touches virtually every phase of the American experience. The train will carry, for example, George Washington's personal copy of the Constitution. It will contain the handwritten draft of President Kennedy's first inaugural address. There will be moon rock samples, the first Bible printed in America, Paul Revere's saddlebags, as well as exhibits representing the Nation's culture, technological progress, professions and trades, sports and the arts.

During the next year and one half, 40 to 50 million Americans are expected to view these exhibits as we near our 200th birthday as a Nation.

MORE

I sincerely hope that every American, as he or she contemplates these historical reminders, will reflect on how far we have come through the short span of 200 years. And as we take a long look back, let us also take a long look forward. If we do, we will be able to see the problems facing us today in a much clearer perspective.

Our problems are serious ones -- especially our energy problems, and those of our economy.

But think of the problems our forefathers had. Think of those 13 tiny colonies taking on the mightiest nation, the mightiest empire in the world. And think of them winning their liberty as well as ours.

Very few people back in 1776 would have thought that in just 200 years those 13 colonies would provide the jumping off spot from which, eventually, 50 united states would span a vast continent and be ours -- tame a mighty wilderness -- construct a technological society of enormous scientific complexity -- and then set out to explore space itself. But if we look back over this span of time and see what we have today, that is exactly what took place and transpired.

As we reflect on these historic accomplishments, let us look ahead to the future that we are building. Let us reaffirm our faith in the American spirit.

As one of the great nations of the world -- spiritually, diplomatically, and economically, we in America have the best of many worlds. We have nearly all the resources which we desperately need. We have the technological resources. We have the human resources. Now, what we need in this period of critical times, we must have the will to win. And win we will in the months ahead.

By the year 2000, I see a people living in a community of peace with other nations, with a standard of living still the highest in the world, with disease greatly conquered, with individual liberty secure for everyone, with wide opportunities for good education and housing, and with our national will and spirit still climbing as we move toward celebration of our bicentennial.

MORE

I see the Bicentennial of 1976 as a rebirth as well as a birthday -- a rediscovery of our strength and of our potential. It will strengthen our resolve to fulfill the promises of our forefathers. It will fortify our determination to continue to build a freer, more just, and more humane society.

This American Freedom Train will be a fitting symbol for what the Bicentennial really represents. Since the day the golden spike was driven, the railroad has symbolized our unity as a nation.

On behalf of all Americans, I thank the American Freedom Train Foundation, and the corporations that provided grants for this Freedom Train. I know that your contributions will inspire others to participate in the Bicentennial. I would like to say a very special word, a special word of thank you to the people of Portland, Oregon, who provided the iron horse that will pull the Freedom Train.

I look for the Freedom Train to provide a unifying symbol of the heritage that made America's great past a great one, and will make its future an even greater one.

Now if I might, I would like to pick up this and present it to the Freedom Train for display, which is a document of tremendous historical significance, symbolic of what America really stands for; freedom.

END

(AT 11:05 A.M. EST)

January 23, 1975

Dear Mr. Bailer:

President Ford has asked me to reply to your letter of December 24, 1974 in which you offer two original documents signed by Benjamin Franklin for use on the American Freedom Train.

Your offer is most kind and I feel it would be very appropriate to have the documents exhibited around the country by the Freedom Train. I have asked Dick Lukstat, of my staff, to contact officials at the American Freedom Train Foundation and explore possible use of these documents. You should be hearing from Dick shortly regarding this matter.

Congratulations on your being selected the next Postmaster General of the United States. I offer my very best wishes for this new endeavor which you undertake, and appreciate your personal interest in the Bicentennial.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

John C. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President

Mr. Benjamin F. Bailer  
Deputy Postmaster General  
U.S. Postal Service  
Washington, D. C. 20260

bc: Dick Lukstat

RHL/sjd





THE DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL

Washington, D.C. 20260

December 24, 1974

RA  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

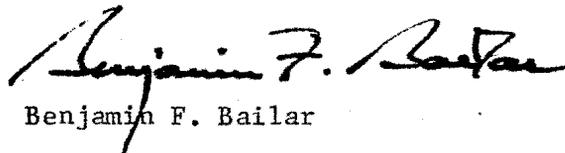
I was pleased to note your announcement last week concerning the American Freedom Train.

While I assume that much of the material to be used on the train has been selected, I would like to offer the loan of two documents signed by Benjamin Franklin, if they would be of interest. The documents are a pair of postmaster commissions directed to the same individual, Abraham Hunt of Trenton, New Jersey, signed by Franklin in two capacities. The first was signed on behalf of the King in 1764 and the second was signed on behalf of the Congress in 1775.

These documents show the role which Franklin played in the Post Office under both Governments and could be part of exhibits concerning the role of the Post Office in the Government of the country, or concerning Franklin's role during revolutionary times. They comprise the only pair of such postal commissions extant and were formerly in the Yale University collection.

If you feel that these documents would be of interest to the Freedom Train, I would appreciate you making this offer known to the appropriate people.

Respectfully,

  
Benjamin F. Bailar



THE DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL

Washington, D.C. 20260

December 24, 1974

RA  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

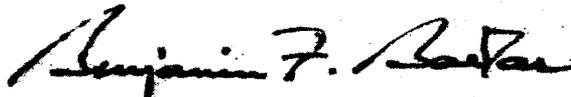
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### *Freedom Train Runs Out of Steam*

BALTIMORE, March 28 (UPI) — The American Freedom Train began a 21-month bicentennial tour of the country from Alexandria, Va., today but promptly fell behind schedule when its steam engine ran out of water just southwest of Baltimore.

The 25-car rolling history museum had to stop unexpectedly outside Baltimore to take on water, delaying it by 2½ hours.

The red, white and blue steam engine that will pull the train on the eastern part of its 17,000-mile odyssey had trouble in Baltimore earlier in the week it slipped off some worn-out rails just before leaving on a 5-hour trial run to Hagerstown, Md.

APR 7 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: TED MARRS *TM*

On Friday, January 24, 1975, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution presented to the President a porcelain figurine depicting the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The figurine which is two feet wide, ten inches high, and weighs forty pounds, is valued at approximately \$4,000. The President accepted it on behalf of the people of the United States and stated that he would like to have it placed on The Freedom Train for the people to see.

I have had a call from Dr. Warren S. Woodward, Executive Secretary of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, asking whether the figurine will be put on the Freedom Train. The SAR wants it done. I attended the presentation and the President did make the statement.

With your approval, I will investigate the feasibility of placing the figurine on the train, with appropriate precautions against breakage.

Thanks.

*Thanks +  
good work!  
Just*

*sent copy to Ted Marsh  
4-8-75  
dl*

