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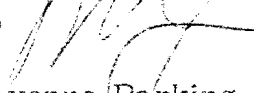
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE PERMIT HOLDERS

FROM: MIKE FARRELL 

SUBJECT: East Executive Avenue Parking  
Wednesday, December 17, 1975  
Friday, December 19, 1975

On Wednesday, December 17, President and Mrs. Ford are having a Christmas Ball for Members of the Congress. To accommodate the guests it will be necessary for any staff who must remain after 7 p.m. to repark their cars diagonally. A parking officer will be present to direct you. If you will be working on the Ball and it will not be possible to move your car at 7 p.m., please leave your keys in an envelope along with a note describing your car (license number, etc.) at the Officer's desk in the East Lobby. They will repark your car for you and will leave the keys at the Officer's desk with a note indicating where your car is located.

On Friday, December 19, President and Mrs. Ford will have a party for White House press. The above instructions will apply except it will be necessary for you to move your car at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

For immediate release  
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1975

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

COVERAGE OF THE CHRISTMAS BALL - WEDS, DEC. 17

Note: Photographers will need a ladder to cover. Black tie for writers, but not necessary for photographers.

- 8:30 p. m. Pickup in press lobby for writers and photographers who wish to cover arrival of guests. Coverage will be inside, on the ground floor at the Diplomatic Reception Room.
- 9:15 p. m. POOL coverage of the President and Mrs. Ford and Susan greeting Christmas carolers inside West Hall.

POOL:

<u>photographers</u>	<u>writers</u>
AP	AP
UPI	UPI
Newsweek	Time
Star-News	Wash Post
Net Pool Crew	

- 9:25 p. m. Press moves from Diplomatic Reception Room to Grand Foyer to cover photo of the President and Mrs. Ford and Susan at Grand Staircase.
- 9:40 p. m. Press to East Room for opening shots of Presidential welcome and beginning of dancing.

END OF PHOTO COVERAGE  
Writers and reporters may mingle.

# # # #

For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, December 17, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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The President and Mrs. Ford will host a Christmas Ball for Members of Congress on Wednesday, December 17 at 9:00 PM. It is black-tie and will be held on the State Floor of the White House.

Approximately 1,000 guests are expected. Included in the guest list are members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, Cabinet members and senior White House staff.

Entertainment will be by New York pianist-orchestra leader Mike Carney, who will provide music for dancing in the East Room. Mr. Carney has performed at the White House twice before. A light buffet will be served in the State Dining Room and the Marine Dance Combo will provide music in the Grand Hall.

Table coverings will utilize the overall "Old Fashioned Childrens Christmas" theme of the White House Christmas decor this year. Tables will be draped with red cloths topped with patchwork fabric. The buffet table centerpieces will be Santa Claus and the Weathervane Raindeer (donated from Colonial Williamsburg) with Christmas greens and holly. Arrangements on the cabaret tables in the dancing area will consist of hurricane lamps surrounded by mixed greens and holly.

There will be two groups caroling as guests arrive. The 19th Street Baptist Church carolers will be singing outside the entrance to the Diplomatic Reception Room. "The Travellers," from Mount Vernon College will be singing in the East Wing Hall.

# # # #

Press coverage details furnished separately

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CHRISTMAS BALL  
for  
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

December 17, 1975  
9:00 p. m. - 12:00 midnight

Dress: Black tie ... long dresses for the ladies

Schedule of  
Events:

8:45 p. m. Your guests will arrive through the Diplomatic Reception Room and the East Wing and will be escorted to the State Floor.

*1 (1) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100*  
~~The 19th Street Baptist Church carolers~~ will be singing Christmas carols outside the entrance to the Diplomatic Reception Room as your guests arrive. A second group, "The Travellers," from Mount Vernon College will be singing in the East Wing Hall for your guests who will arrive through the East Gate.

9:25 p. m. ~~X~~ The carolers will be invited into the west end of the Ground Floor Hall which will be partitioned from the remainder of the Ground Floor Hall. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

9:30 p. m. You, Mrs. Ford, and Susan will be escorted via elevator to the west end of the Ground Floor Hall and greet the two groups. The church group will number 30 people of all ages. The Mount Vernon group of 10 are young people.

9:35 p. m. You, Mrs. Ford, and Susan will bid farewell to the groups and will be escorted to the Family Quarters via elevator.



✓ 9:40 p.m. You, Mrs. Ford, and Susan will descend the Grand Staircase . . . pause at the foot of the staircase for photographs . . . proceed to the Grand Hall facing the East Room . . . pause for announcement.

You, Mrs. Ford, and Susan will proceed into the East Room to the dance band where a microphone will be positioned. You will welcome your guests and introduce Mr. Michael Carney and his orchestra.

After you, Mrs. Ford, and Susan are photographed with the Michael Carney Orchestra, you will join your guests for dancing.

NOTE: Buffet and mixed drinks will be served to your guests in the State Dining Room.

You, Mrs. Ford, and Susan will bid farewell to your guests and return to the Family Quarters.

NOTES:

Guest list is attached.

A Marine Dance Combo will be playing in the Grand Hall.

A Marine harpist will be playing in the Diplomatic Reception Room.

Military Social Aides will be present.

White House photographer will be present.

There will be press coverage.

Maria Downs



## FACT SHEET

Mrs. Ford's Office

Event Christmas Ball  
 Group Members of Congress and their Spouses  
 DATE/TIME Wednesday, December 17, 1975 9:00 p.m.  
 Contact Linda Baker Phone 2927  
 Number of guests: Total approx. 1000 Women X Men X Children - -  
 Place State Floor  
 Principals involved The President and Mrs. Ford  
 Participation by Principal yes - mingle informally (Receiving line) no  
 Remarks required no  
 Background The President and Mrs. Ford are hosting a Christmas Ball for the  
Members of Congress and their spouses.

## REQUIREMENTS

Social: Guest list yes - Social Entertainments Office  
 Invitations yes Programs no Menus no  
 Refreshments yes - Buffet, champagne, mixed drinks  
 Entertainment Dancing - the Mike Carney Orchestra  
 Decorations/flowers yes  
 Music yes  
 Social Aides yes  
 Dress Black Tie Coat check yes  
 Other - -

Press: Reporters TO BE RESOLVED  
 Photographers \_\_\_\_\_  
 TV Crews \_\_\_\_\_  
 White House Photographers yes Color yes Mono. - -  
 Other - -

Technical Support: Microphones yes PA Other Rooms no  
 Recording no  
 Lights no  
 Transportation cars -- through the Southwest Gate  
 Parking South Drive and East Executive Avenue (closed off)  
 Housing - -  
 Other - - (Risers, stage, platforms) yes

Project Co-ordinator Linda Baker Phone 2927

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dress Mrs.  
Ford wore  
to Congressional  
Xmas Ball  
Dec. 17, '75

Patti,

Mrs. Ford is wearing  
gown -- light blonde or ivory  
brocade with darker brocade  
spider mums design.

{ Does not recall but almost  
positive President brought back  
from a far east trip but doesn't  
know when.

from Nancy

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 17, 1975

MEMO FOR APPOINTMENTS OFFICER

FROM: EAST WING PRESS OFFICE

SUBJECT: Christmas Ball at White House Tonight

Ms. Gayle Arnold  
Arkansas Democrat  
SS# 423-60-7576  
July 17, 1935  
Texarhana, Arkansas

Sarah McClendon

Lillian Levy

Jesse Stearns

Sue Watters

Betty Beale (Washington Star)

Isabelle Shelton (Washington Star)

N177

HW

FORD-PARTY

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT FORD INVITED THE ENTIRE CONGRESS TO A WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS BALL TONIGHT, JUST AS THE CONTROVERSIAL TAX CUT BILL WAS PASSED AND SENT TO HIM FOR AN EXPECTED VETO.

THE BIG 9 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT BLACK-TIE PARTY WAS BADLY TIMED FOR CELEBRATION.

IT CAME AS CAPITOL HILL AND THE PRESIDENT WERE LOCKED IN A MAJOR LEGISLATIVE CONFRONTATION THAT COULD AFFECT EVERY AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

BUT, PRESIDENT FORD ARRANGED AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLING, SHOWING OFF THEIR OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND DANCING TO THE MUSIC OF NEW YORK PIANIST-ORCHESTRA LEADER MIKE CARNEY AND A MARINE BAND COMBO.

FOR ITS PART, SENATE AND HOUSE MEMBERS READILY PUT ASIDE THEIR RUSH TO GET MAJOR LEGISLATION PASSED IN TIME TO GET HOME FOR A CHRISTMAS RECESS.

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ARRANGED ''TO QUIT, READY OR NOT'' TO GET TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY 9 P.M. IN YEARS PAST, SIMILAR PRESIDENTIAL HOLIDAY PARTIES, PARTICULARLY ONE BY PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON, WERE DISRUPTED BY LAST-MINUTE LEGISLATIVE LOGJAMS. OVER 1,000 WERE ON THE GUEST LIST FOR THE FORD'S BIGGEST PARTY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, INCLUDING CABINET MEMBERS AND SENIOR WHITE HOUSE STAFFERS.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDED RED TABLE CLOTHS TOPPED WITH PATCHWORK FABRIC, CARRYING OUT THE OLD-FASHIONED THEME, AND CENTERPIECES ON THE BUFFET TABLE INCLUDED SANTA CLAUSES AND REINDEER.

TWO GROUPS OF CAROLERS WERE INVITED TO ENTERTAIN -- ONE FROM THE 19TH ST. BAPTIST CHURCH AND ANOTHER FROM SUSAN FORD'S COLLEGE, MOUNT VERNON.

12-17-75 15:30EST



Last Post  
12/19/75

## PEOPLE/SCENE

# White House Christmas Party for Congress: What a Difference A Year

By Donnie Radcliffe

"The newness wears off," said New York's peppery Bella Abzug during a brief and non-alcoholic refueling break from a vigorous frug on the East Room dance floor.

"Over-exposure," said a Republican congressional wife. "Last year he was one of the boys. Now you've got struggles between him and the Congress."

Both probably had put their fingers on part of what seemed to be ailing Gerald R. Ford's second annual Christmas Ball for members of Congress. In so doing they once again summed up one constant of an otherwise politically inconstant Washington.

A year ago, the black-tie party had amounted to a celebration. In a somewhat sentimental reunion with Capital Hill cronies, many of whose friendships with President Ford went back 25 years, Mr. Ford himself pointed out that he and the ceiling-high Christmas tree from his home state of Michigan had a lot in common: "Neither one of us expected to be in the White House a few months ago."

Wednesday night, the Ford hospitality was there, but some ears detected a restraint in his greeting to nearly 1,000 guests from the Hill, the Cabinet and his senior White House staff.

"The old place (White House) trembled a long time after that very nice evening," he recalled. "We're delighted that you're all back because we think it's a great tradition to have the legislative and executive branches get together on occasions like this."

If he had a message for them on the eve of the House vote to either sustain or override his veto of the tax cut extension bill, it seemed deliberately low-key. "It's an evening of fun but it also has the significance of the season when all of us can get together and celebrate a great anniversary—an anniversary that means love and... and all the fine things we live by."

With that, he led Betty Ford out onto the dance floor as New Yorker Mike Carney and his combo struck up "This Could Be the Start of Something Big," a



Photos by Ken Feil

At left, Federal Energy Administrator Frank G. Zarb, Patricia; and Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.), his wife, Lorra, Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), right.

tune not entirely lost on more optimistic Ford supporters.

"I don't worry about the Gallup poll," said Alaska Republican Sen. Ted Stevens of Mr. Ford's recent 8-point lag behind Ronald Reagan. "It's a low period of the presidency—historically. Drop out? Well, that's like dropping out of a football game after the first quarter."

Kansas' Sen. Robert Dole, former chairman of the Republican National Committee, saw "some work ahead" for Mr. Ford because "he hasn't been able to build that constituency he needs." But he doubted that the President would quit the race.

"I wouldn't think a Gallup poll would do that," mused West Virginia Democrat Sen. Jennings Randolph. "I'd think he'd find out for himself what people are thinking. He must ask questions and expect honest answers."

Carolers from the 19th Street Baptist Church and Mount Vernon College provided background music for arriving guests. Later, over hot chocolate and

cookies, the singers met

"We heard you while dressed," Mr. Ford to groups, "and we could sincerity in what you v more important than the

Upstairs, neither the Ford nor daughter Su dancing partners. Nor guests, socialite Page L by Indiana Democrat. When Hufty wasn't bachelor Brademas, invited out on the f husbands, among Republican William C Democrat Paul Rogers.

Minnesota's Hubert F own on the dance floor, partners and affirming night, in a week fraugh House confrontations, be a truce.

Still, said Humphrey when the Fords slipped was a feeling of "hi holiday air.

*Glenn's News 12/19/75*

**TAX BREAK:** Taking a breather from their unsuccessful efforts to override a Presidential veto on the tax cut bill, Congressmen turned out for the White House Christmas party to dance, mingle and talk politics. There were no signs of combat, as even Battling Bella Abzug, wearing a beaded Juliet cap, bumped away on the dance floor with husband Martin. Betty and Jerry Ford gaily danced a Charleston, while Jake Javits wan-

## EYE

dered through the crowd of 1,000 muttering, "I'm trying to find my wife."

Hubert Humphrey showed up with sister Frances, who posed for photos with Betty Ford. The First Lady left Peggy Stanton reeling with her comment on her black velvet dress with white bunny sleeves. "She thought I was pregnant," Stanton gasped.

As presidential hopeful HHH munched on carrots and cold roast beef sandwiches at the buffet, Maine Republican Congressman Bill Cohen insisted he isn't running for Sen. Edmund Muskie's seat. "I haven't made up my mind yet," said Cohen, who spent most of his time on the dance floor with blonde Page Lee Huffy.

Meanwhile, those with lesser dreams settled into complacency. "After all the digs at Ford and the vaudeville acts about his tripping, I'm glad I'm just a congressman. It's the best job in town — but I don't want ever to be a mayor," said Rep. Clarence Long, (D., Md.).

Shortest visit of the evening was paid by another non-candidate, Nelson Rockefeller, who with Happy, made an early exit.

—SUSAN WATTERS



*Post. Post*  
*12/19/75*

# *White House Christmas Party for Congress: What a Difference A Year Makes*

*By Donnie Radcliffe*

"The newness wears off," said New York's peppery Bella Abzug, as she took a brief and non-alcoholic refueling from a vigorous frug on the East Room dance floor.

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Both probably had put their finger on part of what seemed to be ailing the R. Ford's second annual Christmas party for members of Congress. In the past they once again summed up one of the problems of an otherwise politically inane Washington.

A year ago, the black-tie party amounted to a celebration of somewhat sentimental reunions with Capital Hill cronies, many of whom had friendships with President Ford going back 25 years. Mr. Ford himself pointed out that he and the ceiling-high Christmas tree from his home in Grand Rapids, Michigan had a lot in common: one of us expected to be in the White House a few months ago."

Wednesday night, the Ford household was there, but some ears detected a restraint in his greeting to new guests from the Hill, the Cabinet, and senior White House staff.

"The old place (White House) felt a long time after that evening," he recalled. "We're back because we have a great tradition to have the legislative and executive branches get together on occasions like this."

If he had a message for them, it was of the House vote to either suspend or override his veto of the tax cut bill, it seemed deliberately low-keyed—an evening of fun but it also had the significance of the season when everyone can get together and celebrate the anniversary—an anniversary that is all about love and . . . and all the fine things we live by. . . ."

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