

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE MONDAY AM's
AUGUST 11, 1975

AUGUST 8, 1975

Office of the Vice President
Washington, D. C.

The Vice President and Mrs. Nelson A. Rockefeller will hold a series of traditional American "housewarmings" when they move into the official Vice Presidential residence on the grounds of the Naval Observatory in September.

The events have been planned on the eve of the Bicentennial, Mrs. Rockefeller said, "to express our appreciation to the Congress of the United States for providing American Vice Presidents with an official home for the first time in the nation's history."

Guest lists for the receptions include all members of Congress and their spouses. In addition, private citizens from all walks of life and from each of the 50 states have been invited to share in honoring the Representatives and Senators.

Invitations to all nine parties are being mailed simultaneously. The Members of Congress are being invited on an alphabetical basis, 48 Members of the House of Representatives and eleven Senators to each "housewarming." Other guests in addition to representative Americans from all parts of the country include the diplomatic corps, the Supreme Court, White House Presidential advisers and members of the Cabinet, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Service Secretaries, and six former Chiefs of Naval Operations who lived in "Admiral's House" at one time or another before it became the Vice Presidential home.

"The parties are non-political," Mrs. Rockefeller explained. "We conceive this to be a national expression of appreciation to the Congress rather than a personal event -- although none of the expenses incurred will be charged to public funds."

Mrs. Rockefeller said that she and the Vice President have planned the number of individual receptions because the size of the house would have "precluded a single party."

Approximately 250 guests are expected for each "housewarming," equally divided between Congressmen and officials in Washington, and representative citizens from around the country.

All of the parties will be similar. After visiting the house, the guests will be served food and refreshments, informally from 6 to 9 p.m. under a colorfully decorated tent.

The first of the parties will be held Sunday evening, September 7, and the last on Wednesday, October 8. The "housewarmings" will differ from old-fashioned tradition in only one respect: The Rockefellers stress that gifts of any kind are "inappropriate."

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