

The original documents are located in Box 68, folder “Fourth of July (1976) - National Archives, 7/2/76” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jack -

Have sent copies
of attached to
Marrs / Miller.

Suggest we discuss
this at our 3:30
Friday Bicentennial
meeting -
Reas



APR 1 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1976

Reagan

MEMORANDUM TO: RICHARD CHENEY
JOHN O. MARSH, JR. ✓

FROM: ROBERT GOLDWIN *RG*

SUBJECT: July 1 "Assembly of the Republic"
at the National Archives

I recommend that the President inaugurate the 4th of July weekend for the nation with a solemn ceremony that captures the central meaning of the Bicentennial. It should

--take place on Thursday, July 1

--focus on the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and

--be in the presence of the most prestigious possible gathering of American citizens and foreign representatives.

I have in mind the following: a brief, formal, bicentennial address by the President to an "Assembly of the Republic," at the National Archives, attended by leading members of the several branches of the Government, foreign dignitaries, and outstanding citizen-leaders from every walk of life, all at the invitation of the President. The "Assembly" would be in the presence of, and designed to honor, our two greatest and inextricably linked documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

I recommend the date of July 1 because the Congress will probably hold their own ceremonies on Friday, July 2, and then leave Washington to be in their home states and districts for the Fourth. Also, the best opportunity for a successful solemn occasion will be before the fireworks and other festivities of the weekend begin.

It would be most fitting for the President himself to take the lead, on this historic occasion, in setting the tone for the ceremonies that will be taking place, in the following days, everywhere else throughout the country.

R - S/M



[6/76?]

NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL FOCAL EVENT

Executive Summary

Based on recommendations made by the ARBA Advisory Council, representatives from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, the Joint Congressional Committee on Bicentennial Arrangements, and the National Archives propose a special event to be held on the evening of July 2, 1976 at the National Archives involving the three branches of Government and the three basic documents associated with the formation of the United States, that is the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, a representative of the Senate, and the Chief Justice of the United States would join an assembly of citizens at the National Archives to pay homage to the basic documents and to reaffirm this Nation's commitment to the principles and ideals of the American Revolution. Television coverage of the event would be provided by commercial and private broadcast systems, including satellite coverage. The National Archives would remain open continuously through July 5th following the special event for citizens of the United States and international visitors to view the basic documents.

The proposal will require concurrence by the offices of the four principal participants. The ARBA would assume responsibility for coordinating the event in cooperation with a designated representative from each of the branches of Government and other appropriate agencies.

PROGRAM SCENARIO

On Friday evening, July 2nd at 9:00 p.m., invited guests representing the three branches of Government, private and voluntary institutions and state and local governments will gather on the Portico of the National Archives. The stairs leading from the street to the National Archives entrance will also be lined with representative groups. A path from the base of the stairs to the front entrance would be cleared and candlelit by members of the audience.

Upon arrival at the National Archives, the four principal participants will join at the base of the stairs and then proceed up the stairs to the Speakers' Podium set immediately before the front entrance.



From here, each of the principals will speak briefly to the Nation and the world via national and international television and radio. The President, as the official Head of State, would be the last speaker and would invite visitors to the Nation's Capitol to view the founding documents and to reflect on their meaning.

Following their addresses, the four principals will move into the Great Hall which houses the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Here, they will view the documents as the National Anthem is being played.

At the conclusion of the National Anthem, the four principals will move out of the Great Hall as invited guests and the general public begin to file past the documents.

Following the ceremony, the Great Hall of the National Archives will remain open continuously through 9:00 p.m. on July 5, 1976, permitting citizens and international visitors to view the documents for themselves.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. July 2 is historically significant in that Congress adopted the "Resolution of Independence," officially declaring the colonies independent of England.

2. The event should be simple, ceremonious and dignified, and should stand alone to serve as a true national focal event opening the weekend's activities.

3. Congress will be in session the morning of July 2nd and member participation is expected.

4. The Mall area immediately across from the National Archives can be roped off and secured to permit the general public to witness the ceremony.

5. Participation across the Nation and around the world would complement this national event through the holding of similar activities involving the three basic documents.

6. Private sector support would be required if a filmed or recorded version of the event would be made available to schools, libraries, etc.

7. Arrangements would be required with radio and television organizations to insure coverage of the event.

8. Coordination between the Federal and District Governments will be required to provide logistical and other support services.



RESPONSIBILITY

ARBA will assume full responsibility for coordinating and scheduling this event in cooperation with a designated representative of each of the branches of Government. The ARBA Deputy Administrator will provide direction to this effort.



BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL FOCAL EVENT

July 2, 1976

Presidential Schedule

* (1)

(2)

8:45 p.m. - Invited Guests gather on the Portico of the National Archives

8:45 p.m. - President Departs White House for National Archives

8:55 p.m. - Principals Assemble at bottom of National Archives steps--Constitution Avenue entrance

Live Coverage Begins

9:00 p.m. - Principals Proceed up the front stairs to the Speakers' Podium situated before the main entrance.

(Alternate: Principals enter National Archives from the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance and proceed to Podium through the front doors)

9:03 9:05 p.m. - Speaker of the House Addresses the Nation

9:06 9:10 p.m. - Senate Representative's Address

9:09 9:15 p.m. - Chief Justice's Address

9:12 9:20 p.m. - President's Address

9:18 9:30 p.m. - Principals move into the Great Hall of the Archives

9:20 9:35 p.m. - Playing of National Anthem and Television coverage of Principals before the three basic documents

9:25 9:45 p.m. - Invited guests and general public begin to file into the Great Hall

9:30 10:00 p.m. - Television coverage ends

*(Options (1) and (2) reflect a 1/2 hour program and an hour program respectively, with the only difference being a time change in the length of Speakers' remarks.)



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A PRESIDENTIAL PROPOSAL

One of the most notable scholarship funds in the world is the Rhodes Scholarship. It has educated many distinguished Americans who have achieved renown in nearly every field of human endeavor.

The Rhodes Scholarship stands as an enduring monument to its founder in the last century, Cecil John Rhodes.

It has been observed that in the proposed Bicentennial observances there is no observance in which the President participates that is uniquely his own initiative and which will have enduring value.

There is still time for a Congressional initiative sponsored by the President which could be presented to the Congress in a message on the First of July before the Congress recesses.

The Congressional proposal could take several different forms depending on the nature of the program. The President might propose a series of scholarships along the following lines:

1. The American Scholars Program -- This could be either an under-graduate program or a two-year graduate program. The scholarship thrust might be toward areas of national needs from the standpoint of a trained body of resource people. For example,

engineering, science, medicine, educators. The national need would be determined by the scholarship governing board and they would review the program from time to time to see where the scholarship effort should be made.

2. American Crafts Scholarship -- This would be a scholarship within the field of technical training: draftsmen, mechanics, electricians, and would seek to give an opportunity to individuals who wish to excel in areas that relate to service industries. It would be a training program for journeymen and apprentices in the different crafts. This program would function somewhat like the GI Bill for vocational and technical training. It would be available to hospital technicians and a host of other skills necessary to our modern society.

Considering further proposals the President might wish to sponsor the following are suggested:

1. The establishment of a scholarship or a grant program for Science and Invention. The primary purpose of this program would be to assist inventors, particularly young inventors, by enabling them to pursue educational or

skill programs that will enable them to develop their talents and through the development of their talents, hopefully to produce meaningful contributions in the field of invention and science.

2. A variation of the above would be an Annual Academy of Science and Invention, sponsored during the week of July 4th beginning in 1977 which would be the Presidential Academy. It would bring together individuals who are developing breakthroughs in science and invention in order to give them recognition through achievement as well as to bring their work to the attention of the field of technology and science.
3. Somewhat similar to the above would be the creation of the President's Bicentennial Awards for American Creativity. This would be broader than simply science and invention and would go to the field of innovation and creativity in other areas of American life to include art and literature.
4. America has never used the British concept of a Poet Laureate. There have been a number of efforts

to try and achieve this including the sponsorship of legislation on Capitol Hill to create the Office of Poet Laureate. This raises a question as to whether in the Nation's Bicentennial Year the President should designate an American Poet Laureate. The designation need not be for life but be a designation for one year, two years, or such other term as the President would decide, but the designation would occur on or about the Fourth of July in each year.

The above are merely suggestions. However, the key question is whether there is some bold and imaginative program applicable to the Federal system to make it more effective, which presently is latent or lying dormant. A project that would contribute significantly to American life yet presently is in the conceptual stage but could be brought forward if there were both the initiative and the effort.

Can our 200th Anniversary be a launching pad for some new idea or concept that would capture the imagination of the American people and win the quick support of the Congress if the President were to put his stamp of approval on it and the force of his Administration behind it?

A THEMATIC APPROACH TO BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

The overall theme --

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

The great language of the Declaration of Independence, with its memorable words and phrases, offers themes for the President's remarks at the significant events marking this celebration.

There is a need for all Americans to reexamine the meaning of this great document. The use of key phrases as topics in the Presidential addresses will assist in this reexamination.

Examples as to how this might be used are set out below:

1. "When in the course of human events"

(Air and Space Museum)

This theme will trace the progress made by the American people and the meaning of the Declaration not only to Americans but to mankind. Emphasize freedom for exploration and enlightenment and the legacy of freedom described in this document both to the world of knowledge and the world of political affairs.

2. "Governments are instituted among men"

(Ceremony at the National Archives)

This theme will emphasize the necessity of government to social order and stability. It will stress the three co-equal branches of government to safeguard individual liberties where the governmental powers are drawn from the people.

3. "We mutually pledge to each other"

(Honor America Day)

This theme emphasizes the interdependence of all our people, and our common bond to one another for the security of our nation, and the fulfillment of national purpose.

4. "Protection of divine Providence"

(Valley Forge National Day)

The relationship of spiritual values to national will, emphasizing the higher purposes of our lives individually and nationally.

5. "We hold these truths to be self-evident"

(Philadelphia -- Independence Hall)

The relationship of the Declaration as having meaning not only to Americans, but to mankind. With the continuing meaning of this document to the political affairs for succeeding generations including other countries of the world.

6. "Pursuit of happiness"

(Monticello, Virginia address)

The realization of the American dream, the growth of the American economic and industrial empire. The individual's right to attain. The freedom of opportunity to include education, economic security, home ownership and to achieve a more meaningful life for himself and succeeding generations.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB HARTMANN

FROM: JACK MARSH

In reference to the themes, drawing on the various submissions, set out below are my suggestions for the themes for these events.

1. Air and Space Museum

Reaching for the Unknown (Air and Space Museum, July 1)

The hallmark of the American adventure has been a willingness to explore the unknown -- whether it lay across an ocean, a continent, a solar system or the frontiers of human knowledge. Americans have always been ready to try new and untested enterprises; new political, social and economic systems; new inventions in the arts and sciences; and new rights for men. The continuing adventure of exploring the unknown will be dramatized by the landing on Mars of an unmanned U.S. space vehicle on July 4.

Also:

The Spirit of Adventure (Dedication of Air and Space Museum)

A. Our progress as a Nation reveals that our character is molded by the spirit of adventure. From the colonization of Jamestown to the landing on the moon, we have been a people free to explore. Science, industry, and education search for and find answers to problems unsolvable when our Nation was born.

B. The challenge we now face is to maintain the free spirit that fortified explorers and pioneers, that encouraged captains of industry and geniuses of science.

2. National Archives

The Spirit of Justice (National Archives)

A. The progress of freedom is traceable from our heritage (Magna Charta--Bible) through the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation, through all our historic documents. Each reveals another major step in the perfecting of freedom. America has been more concerned with providing justice for all than any other nation.

B. The challenge we now face is to retain the structure and substance of justice, and the prosperity, liberty and equality it has guaranteed. (Use of President's legislative record.)

Also:

"Governments are instituted among men"

(Ceremony at the National Archives)

This theme will emphasize the necessity of government to social order and stability. It will stress the three co-equal branches of government to safeguard individual liberties where the governmental powers are drawn from the people.

3. Independence Hall

The reason behind both of these phenomena is the fact that the United States is unique among nations in being founded, not on race, not on kinship, not on language, not on religion, but on political values. To be an American is to subscribe to these values. We are uniquely a political community, as distinct from an ethnic community, a religious community, a racial community, or any other kind. Our two key political values are individual liberty (i.e., limited government) and civic liberty (i.e., self-government). Our experience with mass immigration demonstrates that these are not parochial values, not peculiar to Americans, but rather reside in the hearts and minds of men and women all over the world.

For the President's Independence Hall speech, I would suggest the use of the quotation from Lincoln, in a speech also delivered



in Independence Hall, as quoted at the opening of Diamond's lecture. That quotation reads:

"I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing here in the place where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institutions under which we live."

These are noble, simple words. These also make an important point: At Independence Hall was born both the Declaration and the Constitution, and these two documents cannot be understood except in the light of one another. The Declaration provides us with the purpose of government, as Americans understand it -- i.e., to secure the rights of the individual, against even government. The Constitution gives us the means to this end -- i.e., a democratic republic, with a decentralized, federal structure, and with checks and balances within this government. The importance of checks and balances certainly needs to be emphasized today. But the importance of a decentralized political structure needs to be emphasized even more. It is healthy and vigorous self-government on the local level, that is the bedrock of American freedom.

Also:

A Foundation for Liberty (Independence Hall, July 4)

The union of the tried and the untried, the known and the unknown, has created a foundation for American liberty. The true meaning of liberty, embodied in the Declaration of Independence itself, is that men may be masters rather than victims of their destiny. The purpose of our government, embodied in the Constitution, is to preserve this liberty. With our freedom comes the obligation to ensure that all our fellow citizens can have the opportunity to make the most of their lives.

4. Monticello

Let me begin with the Monticello speech because I find myself with some specific thoughts on this question of "a nation of immigrants." The thoughts have been provoked by my teaching experience -- it is astonishing how little our young people appreciate the uniqueness of the immigrant experience in this country, and I'm sure their elders are no more enlightened. This uniqueness is revealed in two extraordinary facts:

(1) The United States is, to my knowledge, the only nation in history which, during most of its existence, permitted unrestricted immigration. The boldness of this policy has been insufficiently appreciated -- we gambled that we could take in anyone, from anywhere, and that simply by reason of their experience in America these people would become loyal, law-abiding, productive citizens. The gambles worked. And the success of this enterprise reveals both the universality of the political ideals on which the U.S. was founded, and their realism.

(2) The U.S. is, to my knowledge, the first nation, and still remains one of the very few nations -- it may even be the only one: check it out! -- which makes the acquisition of citizenship an automatic proceeding. The conditions for becoming a citizen are specific, and those who fulfill these conditions



have a right to citizenship -- one which the government cannot deny. In all other countries I am familiar with, citizenship is regarded as a privilege, not a right, and the political authorities have final discretion as to whether to bestow or withhold it.

A Haven of Opportunity (Monticello, July 5 or 6)

The American opportunity, the right of individuals to shape their own destiny, is not limited by social, economic or geographic boundaries. The colonists saw their settlement as "a city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us;" and we declared our independence "with a decent respect for the opinions of mankind." We shared our destiny of freedom not only with those who came to our shores, but with all people throughout the world who share our ideals. This dynamic element of the American adventure keeps America young and reaching for the unknown as we enter our third century.

The above addresses only the four speeches which were discussed with the President this morning and does not make inputs for Valley Forge and the Honor America ceremonies.

[6/76?]

76-HOUR VIGIL: A NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO THE CHARTERS OF FREEDOM

Synopsis

On the evening of July 2, 1976, the Bicentennial weekend will be opened with the commencement of a 76-hour vigil at the National Archives involving participation by the three branches of Government in a ceremony around the three basic documents associated with the formation of the United States, that is the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the United States would join an assembly of citizens at the National Archives to pay homage to these documents and to reaffirm this Nation's commitment to the principles and ideals of the American Revolution. Television and radio coverage of the event would be provided by commercial and private broadcast systems, including satellite coverage. The National Archives would remain open continuously through July 5th following the event for citizens of the United States and international visitors to view the basic documents and to register their names as participants in the vigil.

Program Scenario

At approximately 8:45 p.m. on July 2nd, the three principal participants would proceed from their respective offices, accompanied by representatives from their branch of Government, to the National Archives in a ceremonial procession with arrival scheduled at the same time. Following arrival at the Constitution Avenue entrance, the three principals would proceed up the stairs into the Great Hall. All would proceed directly to the cases displaying the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights to spend a silent moment of reflection in front of the documents. Each would then sign the first page of the official register for all persons participating in the 76-hour vigil.

The Chief Justice, the Speaker of the House, and the President would then speak briefly (three to five minutes) on the significance of these documents. The President, as the official Head of State, would be the last speaker and would invite visitors to the Nation's Capitol to view the founding documents, to reflect on their meaning, and to register their names as participants in the 76-hour vigil.



The remarks would be carried via radio and television to the Nation and the world and by speaker system to the assembly of people outside the National Archives Building. Upon conclusion of the President's remarks, the United States Armed Forces Bicentennial Band and Chorus would perform the National Anthem. The three principals would then leave the Great Hall as the invited guests and the general public would begin the vigil by filing by the basic documents.



76-HOUR VIGIL: A NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO THE CHARTERS OF FREEDOM

July 2, 1976

Washington, D. C.

Proposed Schedule

- 8:30 p.m. - United States Armed Forces Bicentennial Band and Chorus - provide musical prelude
- 8:45 p.m. - Invited guests gather on steps of the National Archives and Honor Guard forms aisle to Portico entrance
- 8:50 p.m. - Principal representatives of the three branches of Government depart for National Archives
- 8:55 p.m. - Principals assemble at bottom of National Archives steps - Constitution Avenue entrance
- 9:00 p.m. - Principals proceed up the stairs directly into the Great Hall where documents are displayed
- 9:03 p.m. - Principals proceed to documents for moment of silent reflection
- 9:04 p.m. - Principals sign official register for 76-hour vigil
- 9:05 p.m. - Chief Justice's Remarks
- 9:10 p.m. - Speaker of the House presents Remarks to the Nation
- 9:15 p.m. - President's Remarks
- 9:20 p.m. - Playing and singing of the National Anthem
- 9:25 p.m. - President invites guests and general public to begin vigil and procession into the Great Hall
- 9:30 p.m. - Principals leave Great Hall

copy to P.C.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408

JUN 3 1976



JUN 3 1976

Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Marsh:

In response to your request, I am attaching rough notes on some points the President may wish to make in his remarks here on July 2.

Since our meeting on June 1, we have met with Jean McKee, Deputy Administrator of ARBA and members of her staff. Miss McKee will be sending you momentarily an up-to-date proposed scenario for the July 2 ceremony. The ARBA people were as puzzled as we by the transposition of dates, since they had been proceeding all along on the assumption that if a ceremony were to take place, it would be held on the 2nd. I am enclosing a copy of Miss McKee's memorandum of April 15 which sets forth the plans as we formulated them together in early April.

In any event, the ARBA people are now proceeding in accordance with both this memorandum and our discussion of June 1. Miss McKee will serve as coordinator of the event. Her people will make the necessary arrangements with the Chief Justice, who, I gather, agreed just yesterday to participate, and with the Speaker. They will arrange for any necessary bands, marchers, etc., and, within the next few days, will be initiating conversations with the networks. Needless to say, ARBA will be working closely with you and other key members of the White House staff, and with us.

I personally think we will have a memorable ceremony. We at the Archives will certainly work very hard to make it so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Rhoads".

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

Enclosure

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, DC 20408



DATE: JUN 3 1976

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Archivist of the United States (N)

SUBJECT:

TO: Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

Suggested themes for Presidential remarks in July 2 ceremonies at the National Archives. Remarks to be 3-5 minutes in length. President's remarks to follow presentations of equal length by Speaker of the House and Chief Justice. To avoid duplication, it will be suggested that Chief Justice focus on Constitution and Speaker on Bill of Rights so that President may concentrate on Declaration of Independence. Jean McKee, Deputy Administrator of ARBA, has undertaken responsibility for coordination of presentations by three principals. Just prior to their remarks, principals will be first signatories of visitors' book destined for ARBA time capsule to be placed in Archives and opened in 100 years. Book will be signed by all visitors to Archives during 76-hour "vigil" that begins with this ceremony.

1. The President might open by stating that this homage to the founding charters in their permanent home is a singularly appropriate way to begin the weekend of celebrations to follow, for these are the documents that . . . It is fitting, too, that on this occasion he should be in the company of the Speaker and the Chief Justice, the heads of the other two co-equal branches of government which the Founding Fathers, in their wisdom, created to govern this nation.

2. The President should mention the fact that this ceremony begins a 76-hour vigil over the documents, and that he, as the nation's chief elected official has come to the Archives to pay homage to the documents not only in his own behalf, but for all Americans who cannot be in Washington to do so for themselves. The President should indicate that he, the Speaker and the Chief Justice have signed a visitors' book (this will be done on camera) which will bear witness to their homage,



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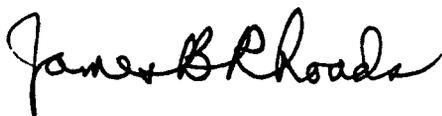


2.

and which will be signed by all visitors to the documents during the 76-hour vigil. The signatures will be put in a time capsule which will be kept in the Archives and opened on the occasion of the tricentennial celebration in 2076.

3. The President should take note of the fact that the date on which this ceremony is being held - July 2 - is a significant one. It was on July 2, 1776, that the Continental Congress actually adopted the so-called Lee Resolution for independence (after Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, who introduced it). The Declaration itself, adopted on July 4, in effect gave voice to the Lee Resolution.

4. The President should call on the American people to rededicate themselves to the principles of liberty and justice enunciated in the founding documents. He should pay tribute to the adoption of the Declaration as a courageous act of faith which not only rallied the colonists of 1776, but has for 200 years, served as a clarion call for freedom-loving peoples around the world (America as the model). He should note the enduring quality of the founding documents, and look forward to our third century as a nation guided by the precepts set forth by the Founding Fathers. (Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness . . . equal opportunity . . . justice for all . . . No people has ever had a richer legacy or more humane ideals . . . Let us strive together . . .)



JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States





April 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR ARBA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: National Focal Event

Received NA-N
APR 16 1976

On Friday, April 9, Mr. Burt Rhoads, National Archivist, Mr. Albert Meisel, Assistant Archivist for the Office of Education Programs, Mr. Wallace Green, Staff Director for the Joint Congressional Committee on Arrangements, and Mr. Martin Diamond, substituting for Richard Gambino and representing the ARBA Council, met to discuss and review the possibility of developing a national program involving the three branches of Government and the three basic documents; that is the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The meeting was most productive and resulted in the following attached proposal. Due to the very tight schedule within which we are working, I would appreciate receiving any thoughts or comments you might have on the proposal as soon as possible, preferably by phone. Contact: Mr. Bill Butler, Secretary to the Council, at (202) 634-1771.

Once your comments are received, the proposal will be presented to the Joint Committee, the Speaker of the House, the Office of the Chief Justice and the Office of the President for endorsement.

Mr. Warner has placed with me full responsibility for coordinating this event, and I do so with great pleasure. Your advice and suggestions are welcomed, and I look forward to working with you on what appears to be a very exciting and worthwhile program.

Sincerely,

Jean McKee
Deputy Administrator

Attachment

NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL FOCAL EVENT

Executive Summary

Representatives from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, the Joint Congressional Committee on Arrangements, and the National Archives propose a special event to be held on the evening of July 2, 1976 at the National Archives involving the three branches of Government and the three basic documents associated with the formation of the United States, that is the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the United States would join an assembly of citizens at the National Archives to pay homage to the basic documents and to reaffirm this Nation's commitment to the principles and ideals of the American Revolution. Television coverage of the event would be provided by commercial and private broadcast systems, including satellite coverage. The National Archives would remain open continuously through July 5th following the special event for citizens of the United States and international visitors to view the basic documents.

The proposal will require concurrence by the offices of the three principal participants. The ARBA would assume responsibility for coordinating the event in cooperation with a designated representative from each of the branches of Government and other appropriate agencies.

INTRODUCTION:

The ARBA Advisory Council recommended that the ARBA staff look into the possibility of developing a program of "magnitude and dignity" which could set the stage for other programs taking place over the 4th of July weekend.

The Council envisioned a program which, in part, would involve representatives from the three branches of Government, and the three basic documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

The Advisory Council's position is that this type of event would place at the very center of our national celebration the two great political instruments to which we owe our being. The Declaration represents the revolution and the Constitution and the Bill of Rights its fulfillment. It would seem appropriate during the Bicentennial for the American people to renew their



dedication to the principles of liberty and representative government; and by having the celebration take place at the National Archives, in the very presence of the three documents, this central theme of the Bicentennial would be physically and visually established.

On Friday, April 9, Mr. Burt Rhoads, National Archivist, Mr. Albert Meisel, Assistant Archivist for the Office of Educational Programs, Mr. Wallace Green, Staff Director for the Joint Congressional Committee on Arrangements, and Mr. Martin Diamond, representing the ARBA Council, met to discuss and review programs involving the basic documents. ARBA staff members attending were Mr. Dan Buser, Director of Public Information, Mr. Bill Butler, Secretary to the Council and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Programs, Mr. Dick Bain, Deputy Director of Special Events, Mr. Dan McKenzie, Heritage '76 Staff, and Tracey Cole.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

Martin Diamond reiterated the Council's hope that a national program involving the three documents and the three branches of Government could be planned and given national attention during the 4th of July weekend. Mr. Rhoads, Mr. Meisel, and Mr. Green agreed that there was a need for such an event and gave their support to the following program:

On Friday evening, July 2 at 9:00 p.m., the President, the Chief Justice and the Speaker of the House would proceed to the National Archives. Each would be accompanied by an entourage of representatives from their respective branch of Government. For example, Cabinet officials would be invited to join the President, Justices and Judges would be invited to accompany the Chief Justice, and the Congressional members would be invited to join the Speaker of the House. Each of the three groups would move ceremoniously in a torch-light procession from their respective "seats of government" to the National Archives.

Upon arrival at the National Archives, members of each entourage will be invited to remain outside, seated on the Portico along with other invited guests representing private and voluntary institutions and organizations and state and local governments.

The three main participants would then proceed alone into the Great Hall of the National Archives where the basic documents are housed. Each would speak briefly to the nation and the world via national and international television and radio. The President, as the official Head of State, would be the last speaker and would invite visitors to the Nation's Capitol to view the founding documents and to reflect on their meaning. Following the President's speech, the Great Hall would remain open continuously through 9:00 p.m. on July 5th, permitting citizens and international visitors to view the documents for themselves.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. July 2 is historically significant in that Congress adopted the "Resolution of Independence," officially declaring the colonies independent of England.

2. The event should be simple, ceremonious and dignified, and should stand alone to serve as a true national focal event opening the weekend's activities.

3. Congress will be in session the morning of July 2nd and member participation is expected following endorsement by the Joint Congressional Committee and the Speaker of the House. The Joint Committee is expected to meet to consider this proposal on April 29.

4. Participation across the nation and around the world would complement this national event through the holding of similar activities involving the three basic documents.

5. Private sector support would be required if a filmed or recorded version of the event would be made available to schools, libraries, etc.

6. Arrangements would be required with radio and television organizations to insure coverage of the event.

7. Coordination between the Federal and District of Columbia Governments will be required to provide logistical and other support services. •

RECOMMENDATIONS

ARBA should assume full responsibility for coordination and scheduling this event in cooperation with a designated representative of each of the branches of Government. The ARBA Deputy Administrator would provide direction to this effort supported by designated ARBA staff.



July 4th weekend

June 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: DICK HITE
FROM: JACK MARSH

Dick, I would appreciate your studying the attached at your earliest possible convenience, in order that we can discuss this on Monday at our meeting. I particularly call to your attention Page 2 and 3 of the Executive Summary, which relates to mechanics, logistics and inter-governmental coordination.

(Attached letter from Archivist Jim Rhoads)

JOM:cb



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408

JUN 3 1976



JUN 3 1976

Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Marsh:

In response to your request, I am attaching rough notes on some points the President may wish to make in his remarks here on July 2.

Since our meeting on June 1, we have met with Jean McKee, Deputy Administrator of ARBA and members of her staff. Miss McKee will be sending you momentarily an up-to-date proposed scenario for the July 2 ceremony. The ARBA people were as puzzled as we by the transposition of dates, since they had been proceeding all along on the assumption that if a ceremony were to take place, it would be held on the 2nd. I am enclosing a copy of Miss McKee's memorandum of April 15 which sets forth the plans as we formulated them together in early April.

In any event, the ARBA people are now proceeding in accordance with both this memorandum and our discussion of June 1. Miss McKee will serve as coordinator of the event. Her people will make the necessary arrangements with the Chief Justice, who, I gather, agreed just yesterday to participate, and with the Speaker. They will arrange for any necessary bands, marchers, etc., and, within the next few days, will be initiating conversations with the networks. Needless to say, ARBA will be working closely with you and other key members of the White House staff, and with us.

I personally think we will have a memorable ceremony. We at the Archives will certainly work very hard to make it so.

Sincerely,

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

Enclosure



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

*National Archives and Records Service**Washington, D.C. 20408*

DATE:

JUN 3 1978

COPY TO
ATTENTION:

Archivist of the United States (N)

SUBJECT:

TO: Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

Suggested themes for Presidential remarks in July 2 ceremonies at the National Archives. Remarks to be 3-5 minutes in length. President's remarks to follow presentations of equal length by Speaker of the House and Chief Justice. To avoid duplication, it will be suggested that Chief Justice focus on Constitution and Speaker on Bill of Rights so that President may concentrate on Declaration of Independence. Jean McKee, Deputy Administrator of ARBA, has undertaken responsibility for coordination of presentations by three principals. Just prior to their remarks, principals will be first signatories of visitors' book destined for ARBA time capsule to be placed in Archives and opened in 100 years. Book will be signed by all visitors to Archives during 76-hour "vigil" that begins with this ceremony.

1. The President might open by stating that this homage to the founding charters in their permanent home is a singularly appropriate way to begin the weekend of celebrations to follow, for these are the documents that . . . It is fitting, too, that on this occasion he should be in the company of the Speaker and the Chief Justice, the heads of the other two co-equal branches of government which the Founding Fathers, in their wisdom, created to govern this nation.
2. The President should mention the fact that this ceremony begins a 76-hour vigil over the documents, and that he, as the nation's chief elected official has come to the Archives to pay homage to the documents not only in his own behalf, but for all Americans who cannot be in Washington to do so for themselves. The President should indicate that he, the Speaker and the Chief Justice have signed a visitors' book (this will be done on camera) which will bear witness to their homage,



2.

and which will be signed by all visitors to the documents during the 76-hour vigil. The signatures will be put in a time capsule which will be kept in the Archives and opened on the occasion of the tricentennial celebration in 2076.

3. The President should take note of the fact that the date on which this ceremony is being held - July 2 - is a significant one. It was on July 2, 1776, that the Continental Congress actually adopted the so-called Lee Resolution for independence (after Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, who introduced it). The Declaration itself, adopted on July 4, in effect gave voice to the Lee Resolution.

4. The President should call on the American people to rededicate themselves to the principles of liberty and justice enunciated in the founding documents. He should pay tribute to the adoption of the Declaration as a courageous act of faith which not only rallied the colonists of 1776, but has for 200 years, served as a clarion call for freedom-loving peoples around the world (America as the model). He should note the enduring quality of the founding documents, and look forward to our third century as a nation guided by the precepts set forth by the Founding Fathers. (Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness . . . equal opportunity . . . justice for all . . . No people has ever had a richer legacy or more humane ideals . . . Let us strive together . . .)



JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States





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June 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: JACK MARSH

I noted in the original schedule proposal for the Archives ceremony prepared by Warren Rustand in September of 1975 the event described there is one occurring during the daylight hours. Perhaps this is where the original misunderstanding occurred.

JOM/dl



June 7, 1976

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FROM: JACK MARSH

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JOM/dl



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: TED MARRS
MILT MITLER
BILL NICHOLSON

FROM: JACK MARSH *Jack*

In reference to the President's participation in July Fourth events, where is the complete program to the extent that one is available of the sequence of events at Philadelphia on the Fourth?



June 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: JACK MARSH

Bob Wolhuis has used the wrong date for the Archives Ceremony and it has been circulated.

Recover those schedules and get it corrected.

Many thanks.

JOM/dl





June 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Warner

SUBJECT: A National Tribute to the Charters of Freedom

Here are the latest details on the program at the National Archives in which you will participate:

Time: 9:00 p.m., Friday, July 2, 1976

Place: National Archives, Constitution Avenue - between 7th and 9th Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Contact: Mr. Albert Meisel
Special Events
National Archives
Phone: 523-3183

Principals: The President
Vice President Rockefeller
Speaker of the House, the Honorable Carl Albert
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honorable Warren Burger

A meeting to discuss this event was held at the National Archives on Monday, June 21, 1976. Representatives from the White House, Secret Service, National Archives and ARBA took part in the planning.

Although the program is not finalized as yet, the general format will be as follows:

The U.S. Armed Forces Bicentennial Band and Chorus will be in position standing on the upper steps to the audience's right.

The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps will be opposite the band on the steps to the audience's left.

A mixed honor guard will form an aisle up the stairs to the door of the rotunda.

If needed, we might use the Army Band's Herald Trumpets across the top steps for honors for the President.

About 8:15 p.m., the Bicentennial Band and Chorus will present an appropriate program for the audience assembling. They will trade off selections with the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.



8:40 p.m. - Senator Edward W. Brooke Remarks

8:50 p.m. - John W. Warner introduces Mr. Jack Eckerd
(GSA Administrator) and Dr. James Rhoads
(Archivist of the United States.)

Music Selection Follows.

9:00 p.m. - Honors for the President upon arrival.

President, Speaker of the House and Chief Justice escorted
up the stairs to the rotunda. (There will be about 50 VIP
guests standing in the area immediately outside the rotunda.)

The principals will sign the register located to the left inside the
rotunda, then take their positions in front of the three documents.

The Vice President will act as the Master of Ceremonies and will introduce
the Chief Justice, the Speaker and the President.

Each will give a brief talk on the Charters of Freedom.

Short exchange with VIP guests.

At the conclusion, the Bicentennial Band will play an appropriate selection
and the principals will leave back down the stairs to their vehicles.

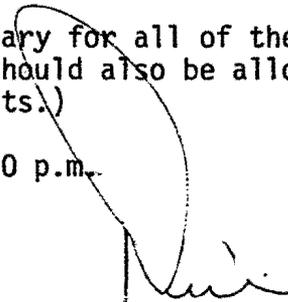
The VIPs inside will sign the register and view the documents, then leave.

The other selected "guests" will enter the rotunda, sign the register and
view the documents, then leave.

The general public will then do the same.

The Band should play as long as necessary for all of the invited guests to
leave the area. (The military units should also be allowed to move in to
sign the register and view the documents.)

The program should be concluded by 9:30 p.m.


Dick Bain
Deputy Director, Special Events

Enclosure: Copy of Invitation

Copy to: Miss McKee
Capt. Hetu
Mr. Hall
Mr. Eiges
Mr. Butler



THE ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION
THE ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
AND THE
ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES
INVITE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO JOIN WITH
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES
AND THE
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
IN A BICENTENNIAL CEREMONY
TO OPEN THE
"76-HOUR VIGIL:
A NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO THE CHARTERS OF FREEDOM"
JULY 2, 1976 at 9:00 p.m.
ON THE FRONT STEPS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Constitution Ave. Entrance
between 7th and 9th Sts.

Musical Prelude at 8:30 p.m.

RSVP (202) 634-1841 by June 28, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH
RED CAVANEY
DICK KEISER

FROM:

WILLIAM W. NICHOLSON *WWN*

SUBJECT:

Approved Presidential Activity

Please take the necessary steps to implement the following and confirm with Mrs. Nell Yates, ext. 2699. The appropriate briefing paper should be submitted to Dr. David Hoopes by 4:00 p.m. of the preceding day.

Meeting: Ceremony in Honor of the Declaration of Independence

Date: Fri., July 2, '76

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Duration:

Location: The National Archives

Press Coverage:

Purpose:

cc: Mr. Cheney
Mr. Hartmann
Mr. Mitler
Dr. Connor
Dr. Hoopes
Mr. Nessen
Mr. Jones
Mr. Smith
Mr. O'Donnell
Mrs. Yates
Col. Riley
Mr. Orben
Mrs. Gemmell
Miss Porter
Dr. Marrs

SPEECH #2 - NATIONAL ARCHIVES

I am standing before the great charters of American liberty under law. Millions of Americans, ~~before me and after me,~~ ^{lovingly} will have looked and lingered ^g over these priceless documents and ~~others~~ ^g that ^{have guided} record our 200 years of high adventure as "a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Those were Lincoln's words, as he looked to the Declaration of Independence for guidance when a raging storm ^{threatened} obscured ^{very foundations of the Federal} the Constitution. We are gathered here to ^{revere and honor} honor ~~both~~ ^{to the principles set forth in both documents.}

Even the way these parchments are displayed here is instructive:

- together, ^g as they must be historically understood;
- the Constitution and its first 10 Amendments on an equal plane;
- ^g but the Declaration of Independence properly central and above all.



The Declaration is the Polaris of our political order --
the fixed star of freedom. It is impervious to change because
it states moral truths that are eternal.

~~The Constitution provides for its own changes, as the~~
learned Chief Justice has said. It began to change as soon
as it was ratified. It may be virtually unrecognizable to
its framers by the time we celebrate our 300th or 400th birth-
day.

But the Declaration will be there, exactly as it was
when the Continental Congress adopted it -- after eliminating
and changing some of Jefferson's draft, much to his annoyance.

~~Its~~
Jefferson's immortal words will remain, and they will be pre-
served in human hearts even if this original parchment should
fall victim to time and fate. Listen:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all
Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their
Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these
are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness--That to

secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."

The act of Independence, the actual separation of colonies and Crown took place 200 years ago today, when the delegations of 12 colonies adopted Richard Henry Lee's resolution of independence. The founders expected that July 2 would be celebrated as the national holiday of the newborn Republic, but they took two more days to debate and approve this declaration, an announcement to the world of what they had done and of the reasons why.

The Declaration and other great documents of our heritage remind me of the flying machines across the Mall in the new museum we opened yesterday. From the Spirit of St. Louis to the lunar orbital capsules we see vehicles that enabled Americans to cross vast distances in space. Here we find carriers to transport us across centuries in time -- back

to Mount Sinai and the Sea of Galilee, to Runnymede, to the pitching cabin of the Mayflower, and to sweltering Philadelphia in midsummer of 1776.

If we maneuver our time vehicle along to 1787 we see the same chamber of Independence Hall, where the Constitution is being drafted under the stern eye of George Washington, the hero of our Revolution. Some of the faces are familiar: Benjamin Franklin's, of course, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut. Thomas Jefferson has gone to Paris; the quiet genius of this Convention is James Madison.

But Jefferson's great principles are very much present. The Constitution, when it is done, will translate the great ideas of the Declaration into a legal mechanism for effective government, where the unalienable rights of individual Americans are secure.

In grade school, we were taught to memorize the first and last parts of the Declaration. Nowadays even scholars

skip over the long recitation of alleged abuses by King George III and his misguided ministers. But we ought to read them, occasionally, because the injuries and invasions of individual rights listed are the very excesses of governmental power which the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments are designed to prevent.

The familiar parts of the Declaration describe the positives of freedom; the ^{less familiar} ~~dull~~ part the negatives. Not all the rights of free people, nor all the necessary powers of government, can be enumerated in one writing or for all time, as Madison and his colleagues made plain in the 9th and 10th Amendments.

But the source of all unalienable rights, the proper purposes for which governments are instituted among men, and the reasons why free people should consent to an equitable ordering of their God-given freedom, have never been better stated than by Jefferson in our Declaration of Independence.

The objects of the

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are cited as being among the most precious endowments of the Creator, but ~~not the only ones.~~ In a private letter, Jefferson wrote that "the God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time."

These God-given rights

This ~~better~~ explains the bold assertion that "All men are created equal" which Americans have debated for two centuries.

We are obviously not equal in size, or wisdom, or strength,

just as surely as each person is born to a life of his or her own. Such person is entitled equally with all others to find protection of that life to say about it. And from the moment we have a life of our ~~his or her~~ own, we have liberty of our own, and we receive both in equal and to equal protection of that liberty under the law. shares. We are all born free in the eyes of God.

The commitment to these truths as self-evident

That eternal truth is the great promise of the Declaration;

these truths were

but it certainly was not self-evident to most of mankind in

they are

1776, and I regret to say it is not universally accepted in

essence of the

is contained in the proclamation

1976. Yet the American adventure not only proclaimed it; for

that these truths are never to be doubted; and for

1200 years we have consistently sought to prove it true. The

work had to be done then against the skeptics.



conceived first, intended and demanded in its course. *They* *of* *the* *Declaration*

Declaration, is the promise of freedom; the Constitution, ~~came~~ *came along to give this nation the remarkable capacity to* continuously seeks the fulfillment of freedom. The Constitution ~~was~~ *with* *depart* *from* *the* *course* was created and continues -- as its preamble states -- "to

ensure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

As we read these two great documents together --

The great promise of the Declaration requires far more ~~than~~ *the Declaration and the Constitution -- we see how they* than the patriot sacrifices of the American Revolution, more ~~complement~~ *complement* each other and how they remain as vital ~~than~~ *than* the legal stabilizer of the Constitution, more than ~~today~~ *in their essences* *as they were at their inception.* Together they ~~Lincoln's~~ *Lincoln's* successful answer to the question of whether a nation ~~proclaim to us and to all the world, now and for all~~ *proclaim to us and to all the world, now and for all* so conceived and so dedicated could long endure.

time, these basic principles;

What does the Declaration declare?

-- First, that all human beings have certain ^{*fundamental*} rights ~~as identified generally in the Declaration and with specificity in the Constitution,~~ *as identified generally in the Declaration and with specificity in the Constitution,* as a gift from God.

-- Second, that these rights cannot lawfully be taken away from any man or woman, by any human agency, ~~monarchy or~~ *democracy.*

-- And third, that all governments derive all their just powers from the people, who consent to be governed in

order to secure their rights and to effect their safety and happiness.

Thus, both rights and powers belong to the people; the rights equally apportioned to every individual; the powers to the people as a whole *under a republican form of government,*

This November, the whole American people will, under the Constitution, again give their consent to be governed through our election process. This voluntary, free and secret act should be a reaffirmation, by every eligible American, of the mutual pledges in support of this Declaration made by John Hancock and the 55 others whose untrembling signatures we can still make out *and in support of the Constitution as enacted by consent of the governed.*

Jefferson said that the future belongs to the living; we stand awed in the presence of these great charters not by their beauty, not by their antiquity, but because they belong to us. We return thanks that they have guided us safely through two centuries of national independence, but the

excitement of this occasion is that they still work.

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And let us do so, as they did, with firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, that the future of this

land we love may be ever brighter for our children and for
generations of Americans yet to be born.

#



JUN 29 1976



June 28, 1976

Mr. John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Marsh:

I take great pleasure in inviting you to join the President of the United States, the Vice President, the Chief Justice and the Speaker of the House of Representatives at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. on July 2nd at 9:00 p.m. for a national Bicentennial event. You and members of your family will be special guests for a brief ceremony inside the National Archives Building. This ceremony will open a 76-hour vigil paying tribute to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Guests will be able to participate in this ceremony, along with the representatives of the three branches of Government, by signing the Official Bicentennial Register. This Register will be included in the national Bicentennial Time Capsule to be opened for the commemoration of the Tricentennial in 2076.

Guests are asked to arrive no later than 8:30 p.m. at the Constitution Avenue entrance to the National Archives to be escorted to their reserved area. Please confirm no later than June 29th if you can accept this invitation by contacting Tracey Cole at 634-1841.

In the Spirit of '76,

John W. Warner
Administrator

Tom
will be
part of
Presidential
Party

called
6/30
9:45
de



**American Revolution
Bicentennial Administration
2401 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20276**

Official Business

**Postage and Fees Paid
American Revolution
Bicentennial Administration
424**



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June 28, 1976

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FROM: JACK MARSH
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My suggestion would be to go with the first four pages and a new closing paragraph.

I believe the remaining material from pages five through ten lends itself for use at Philadelphia.

JOM/dl

On page 2, I would suggest great caution in stating that the Constitution may become "unrecognizable."



SPEECH #2 - NATIONAL ARCHIVES

I am standing before the great charters of American liberty under law. Millions of Americans, before me and after me, will have looked and lingered over these priceless documents and others that record our 200 years of high adventure as "a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Those were Lincoln's words, as he looked to the Declaration of Independence for guidance when a raging storm obscured the Constitution. We are gathered here to honor both.

Even the way these parchments are displayed here is instructive:

-- together, as they must be historically understood;

-- the Constitution and its first 10 Amendments on an equal plane;

-- but the Declaration of Independence properly central and above all.



The Declaration is the Polaris of our political order -- the fixed star of freedom. It is impervious to change because it states moral truths that are eternal.

The Constitution provides for its own changes, as the learned Chief Justice has said. It began to change as soon as it was ratified. It may be virtually unrecognizable to its framers by the time we celebrate our 300th or 400th birthday.

But the Declaration will be there, exactly as it was when the Continental Congress adopted it -- after eliminating and changing some of Jefferson's draft, much to his annoyance. Jefferson's immortal words will remain, and they will be preserved in human hearts even if this original parchment should fall victim to time and fate. Listen:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness--That to



secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."

The act of Independence, the actual separation of colonies and Crown took place 200 years ago today, when the delegations of 12 colonies adopted Richard Henry Lee's resolution of independence. The founders expected that July 2 would be celebrated as the national holiday of the newborn Republic, but they took two more days to debate and approve this declaration, an announcement to the world of what they had done and of the reasons why.

The Declaration and other great documents of our heritage remind me of the flying machines across the Mall in the new museum we opened yesterday. From the Spirit of St. Louis to the lunar orbital capsules we see vehicles that enabled Americans to cross vast distances in space. Here we find carriers to transport us across centuries in time -- back



to Mount Sinai and the Sea of Galilee, to Runnymede, to the pitching cabin of the Mayflower, and to sweltering Philadelphia in midsummer of 1776.

If we maneuver our time vehicle along to 1787 we see the same chamber of Independence Hall, where the Constitution is being drafted under the stern eye of George Washington, the hero of our Revolution. Some of the faces are familiar: Benjamin Franklin's, of course, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut. Thomas Jefferson has gone to Paris; the quiet genius of this Convention is James Madison.

But Jefferson's great principles are very much present. The Constitution, when it is done, will translate the great ideas of the Declaration into a legal mechanism for effective government, where the unalienable rights of individual Americans are secure.

In grade school, we were taught to memorize the first and last parts of the Declaration. Nowadays even scholars



skip over the long recitation of alleged abuses by King George III and his misguided ministers. But we ought to read them, occasionally, because the injuries and invasions of individual rights listed are the very excesses of governmental power which the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments are designed to prevent.

The familiar parts of the Declaration describe the positives of freedom; the dull part the negatives. Not all the rights of free people, nor all the necessary powers of government, can be enumerated in one writing or for all time, as Madison and his colleagues made plain in the 9th and 10th Amendments.

But the source of all unalienable rights, the proper purposes for which governments are instituted among men, and the reasons why free people should consent to an equitable ordering of their God-given freedom, have never been better stated than by Jefferson in our Declaration of Independence.

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are cited as being among the most precious endowments of the Creator, but not the only ones. In a private letter, Jefferson wrote that "the God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time."

This better explains the bold assertion that "All men are created equal" which Americans have debated for two centuries.

We are obviously not equal in size, or wisdom, or strength, or fortune. But we are all born -- having had nothing at all to say about it. And from the moment we have a life of our own we have liberty of our own, and we receive both in equal shares. We are all born free in the eyes of God.

That eternal truth is the great promise of the Declaration; but it certainly was not self-evident to most of mankind in 1776, and I regret to say it is not universally accepted in 1976. Yet the American adventure not only proclaimed it; for 200 years we have consistently sought to prove it true. The

Declaration is the promise of freedom; the Constitution continuously seeks the fulfillment of freedom. The Constitution was created and continues -- as its preamble states -- "to ensure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

The great promise of the Declaration requires far more than the patriot sacrifices of the American Revolution, more than the legal stabilizer of the Constitution, more than Lincoln's successful answer to the question of whether a nation so conceived and so dedicated could long endure.

What does the Declaration declare?

-- ~~First~~, that all human beings have certain rights as a gift from God.

-- ~~Second~~, that these rights cannot lawfully be taken away from any man or woman by any human agency, monarchy or democracy.

-- And ~~third~~, that all governments derive all their just powers from the people, who consent to be governed in

order to secure their rights and to effect their safety and happiness.

Thus, both rights and powers belong to the people; the rights equally apportioned to every individual; the powers to the people as a whole.

This November, the whole American people will, under the Constitution, again give their consent to be governed through our election process. This voluntary, free and secret act should be a reaffirmation, by every eligible American, of the mutual pledges in support of this Declaration made by John Hancock and the 55 others, whose ~~untrembling~~ signatures we can still make out.

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WR7
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The Constitution provides for its own changes, having equal force with the original articles. It began to change soon after it was ratified when the Bill of Rights was added. We have since amended it 16 more times and before we celebrate our 300th birthday there will be more changes.

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WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

R -

Highest

Priority /

Archives Program



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE *RAR*

I spoke last night with Jim Rhodes (Archivist), Doug Smith and Bill Butler (ARBA), but failed to reach Jean McKee in Chicago. Rhodes agrees no confusion whatever re assignments, i. e., President has Declaration of Independence and the Speaker has Bill of Rights ... I will give you a battle report later in the morning.

NOTE: 9:30 a. m.

I just spoke with Jean McKee. She will be back in Washington at 11:00 a. m. Will coordinate with us throughout the day. McKee says "I don't understand how this could happen."

Per request.

William P. Butler
634-1771



SPEECH OF SPEAKER CARL ALBERT
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
JULY 2, 1976

Mr. President, Mr. Chief Justice, Members of the Congress,
Cabinet and the Supreme Court, distinguished guests, citizens
and friends:

The premier event of our Nation's Bicentennial Celebration
must naturally be July 4, 1976. On that day, 200 years ago, the
Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence,
drafted by a committee of five headed by Thomas Jefferson, of
Virginia.

We have celebrated our independence from Great Britain,
and our precious heritage of liberty and individual freedom on that
date ever since.

In another sense, however, the decisive act of separation
from England actually took place two days earlier, on July
2, 1776. By a vote of 12 states -- 10 voting unanimously, New
York not voting and Pennsylvania and Delaware casting divided
ballots -- the Continental Congress adopted the resolution
of independence.

Its Preamble, the declaration that Jefferson drafted, was then approved two days later, on July 4th. It is, thus, all together appropriate that we launch the premier event of this weekend today.

This morning, the House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously passed Joint Concurrent Resolution _____ . It rededicates this Congress, and through your Representatives and the Senators, the American people to the following principles:

Whereas on July 2, 1776 the Continental Congress in Philadelphia approved a resolution submitted by Richard Henry Lee declaring that "these colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free and Independent States," and,

Whereas on July 2, 1776 there existed among those Members of Congress meeting in Philadelphia a spirit of liberty and justice, and,



Whereas the efforts of these founding fathers led to a Declaration of Independence and the creation of the United States of America; and,

Whereas 1976 is the two-hundredth anniversary of the democratic form of government initiated by these leaders assembled in Philadelphia in 1776; now be it

Resolved that on July 2, 1976, the 94th and Bicentennial Congress of the United States of America does hereby reaffirm its commitment to the ideals and Principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence by Members of Congress assembled in Philadelphia on July 2, 1776, resulting in the formation of the enduring democracy that is the United States of America.

The Declaration of Independence is, of course, the best known and most noble of all American public documents. Among its several principles, perhaps two stand out in 1976, as in 1776.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

This majestic document concludes with the classic
lines:

"...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

May our people, our institutions and our Nation continue to prosper under liberty, as we move toward the 21st century and, God willing, our Tricentennial Celebration.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Proposal

*outline - want to
Joint Committee -
(they asked to be
the one to contact*



Archives
Bill at ↑ at 10:00 A.M.
"later this
today -
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Gov. Peabody

say they would
change last part of
speech to include
Bill & etc.

(Peabody
776-7970)

tie-line
301-366-3300 x 278
273)

Speaker reviewed
copy of speech last night.

Paul Boser



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 29, 1976

Mr. Hartmann:

560-3248 home #

When I called Bill Butler at the ARBA 634-1771 for tickets for the National Archives event, he asked me to pass on to you the following information:

The Speaker's remarks are on the Declaration of Independence, on the historical significance of July 2 leading into a reading of the Joint Resolution that the Congress will have passed on July 2 reaffirming their dedication to the principles of the Declaration and concluding with remarks centered around quotes from the Declaration.

Bob Peabody is working on the Speaker's remarks. His telephone number is: 225-5414.

Gail

Jean Rhodes
Jim O'Neill (Rep)

Archives - F.R.I.

Bill Page



Bob Adell

peaks - Bell / Mt.

deep - constellations

↑ - Dec. of Jude

Jean Rhodes →

Page ARBA
made assignment
but is non-terrestrial
"has Decade"
ration

ARBA going to coord.
Met w/ Jean/Butler

Bob Peabody:

moving to the Declaration
of Independence - direct reading
- last part -

Joe Foote -	not figured up in writing
Wallace Greene -	

He seemed willing to
accommodate; but he
wants joint resolutions
in there; Butler will
call Peabody Wed. &
report back to me -

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RUSS ROURKE

FROM:

JACK MARSH

Jack

J

If I have not already talked with you, what is the status of the National Archives speech involving the Carl Albert situation?

Advised Jack - 30 June

June 30, 1976

July 4

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RAR/dl



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