

For immediate release
Tuesday, Feb. 4, 1975

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

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited Jazz Musician Billy Taylor to entertain Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the State Dinner honoring Prime Minister and Begum Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Dr. Taylor is known as a pianist, composer, lecturer and radio and television personality. He has composed more than 300 songs and written twelve books. He is considered a spokesman for jazz, lecturing at universities and high schools around the country.

Dr. Taylor is a recipient of Downbeat Magazine's award for Best Pianist in their Critic's Poll.

He is a member of the board of directors of the Newport Jazz Festival, the Harlem Cultural Council and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. He is also President of Jazzmobile, which provides free concerts to culturally deprived areas, and is a member of the National Council on the Arts.

Dr. Taylor has also served as an advisor to the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York and was Vice President of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

He has been musical conductor for the syndicated David Frost Television Show. He currently writes special material for Sesame Street and Electric Company and is musical director for NET's Black Journal.

The son of a dentist, Taylor was born in Greenville, N.C., and grew up in Washington, D.C. He began playing piano at age 7 and studied under Henry Grant, a local music teacher who also taught Duke Ellington. He received a bachelor of science from Virginia State College and will receive a doctorate in musicology from the University of Massachusetts this spring. He has two honorary doctorate degrees, one from Virginia State and another from Fairfield University.