

The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “12-16-75 Diplomatic Children's Christmas Ball” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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FACT SHEET
Mrs. Ford's Office

Event Diplomatic Children's Christmas Party
Group T. H. I. S.
DATE/TIME December 16, 1975 4:30 p. m.
Contact Mrs. Swan Weber Phone (O) 232-3002
Number of guests: Total approx. 500 Women x Men _____ Children x
Place State Floor
Principals involved Mrs. Ford
Participation by Principal yes (Receiving line) no
Remarks required yes
Background Mrs. Ford's Christmas party for the children of the Diplomatic Corps.

REQUIREMENTS

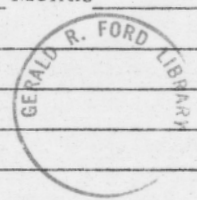
Social: Guest list yes (Pat Howard)
Invitations yes Programs no Menus no
Refreshments Christmas cookies and punch
Entertainment yes
Decorations/flowers yes
Music yes
Social Aides yes
Dress afternoon dress Coat check yes
Other -- (Theatre)

Press: Reporters yes
Photographers yes
TV Crews yes
White House Photographers yes Color yes Mono. _____
Other --

Technical Support: Microphones yes PA Other Rooms no
Recording yes
Lights yes ?
Transportation cars (enter thru the SW Gate)
Parking South Grounds (for THIS volunteers, approx. 30 spaces)
Housing --
Other -- (Risers, stage, platforms) yes

Project Co-ordinator Pat Howard Phone 2927

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1975

FOR: Mrs. Ford

FROM: Maria Downs **M**

RE: Diplomatic Children's Christmas Party
December 16, 1975

Attached for your review and approval is the proposed scenario for your Christmas party for the diplomatic children.

Also, for your information I have attached a copy of the press release which includes background information on the entertainment.

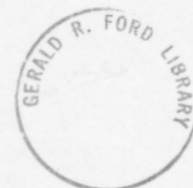


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD

Event: Diplomatic Children's Christmas Party
Date/Time: Tuesday, December 16, 1975 at 4:30 p. m.
Place: State Floor
Number of Attendees: 463 children from 84 countries



Schedule of Events: 4:30 p. m. The children will arrive through the Southwest Gate and will be escorted to the State Floor through the Blue Room (around the Christmas tree) to the East Room where they will be seated on the floor facing the stage at the north end of the room.

NOTE: There will be 11 clowns from the Social Security Administration to amuse the children before the entertainment begins.

4:40 p. m. As soon as all the children have been seated, you will be escorted to the State Floor by Maria Downs where you will meet Mrs. Weber, Mrs. Preston, Mrs. Jackson, and Mrs. Bellaschi. (Mrs. Swan Weber is President of THIS; Mrs. William Preston is Vice President of THIS; Mrs. Aaron G. Jackson and Mrs. Julius Bellaschi are Co-Chairmen of the Children's Committee of THIS)

Maria Downs will then escort you to the East Room. You will enter through the center door and proceed to the microphone which will be located in front of the stage. You will make brief welcoming remarks and introduce the entertainment -- Kukla, Fran & Ollie.

You will be seated with the children for the entertainment.

5:05 p. m. After Santa Claus arrives on stage, the entertainment concludes. You proceed to the stage to thank Kukla, Fran & Ollie. You will remain on stage and pose for photographs with Santa Claus and Kukla, Fran & Ollie.

You will then invite the children to join you in the State Dining Room for punch and cookies.

NOTE: There will be full press coverage of your remarks and of the entertainment.

5:30 p. m. The party concludes and you will return to the Family Quarters.

As the children depart, Santa Claus (Bill Nicholson) will be in the Ground Floor Hall and will hand out candy and autographed pictures of you and the President.

NOTES: Military Social Aides will be present.

THIS volunteers will assist with the party.

The Marine Brass Choir will play in the Grand Hall.

A White House photographer will be present.

Background information about THIS is attached.

Pat Howard
December 15, 1975



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THIS

THIS (The Hospitality & Information Service) is a volunteer committee of Washington citizens formed to be of service to diplomatic residents and their families. Organized in 1961 at the request of the Chief of Protocol, THIS is a non-government, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization. Its sponsors are the spouses of the President's Cabinet and the Mayor of the District of Columbia.



For Immediate Release
Tuesday, December 16, 1975

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

Mrs. Ford will host a party for children of members of the Diplomatic Corps based in Washington today at 4:30 PM at the White House.

Mrs. Ford has invited Kukla, Fran and Ollie to entertain for the party. They will perform a specially created show for the party. Santa Claus and eleven clowns will be on hand to help Mrs. Ford greet her guests.

Approximately 500 children representing 84 countries will attend. The guest list was coordinated through THIS, The Hospitality and Information Service, a volunteer organization to help Diplomatic families in Washington, D. C.

Santa Claus is being played by Bill Nicholson, Director of Presidential Scheduling at the White House.

The clowns are from the Baltimore Social Security Administration and have organized themselves as the Social Security Clown Club which has been officially recognized by the Administration as an employee group since 1970. The Social Security Clown Club has performed at the White House the past three years at the Easter Egg Roll.

The children will be given candy and an autographed picture of the President and Mrs. Ford.

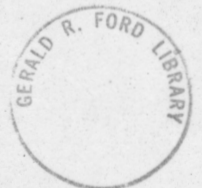
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BACKGROUND:

Kukla, Fran and Ollie have been hosts for the CBS Children's Film Festival (seen each Saturday) since 1966. The show's creator, Burr Tillstrom, has won two Peabody Awards and three Emmy Awards for his television work.

Tillstrom was born in Chicago. His first public appearance as a puppeteer was with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the Chicago Park District Theater. From there, he went on to become the manager and star performer of the Marshall Field Marionette Theater.

In 1941, Burr Tillstrom and his original puppets, Kukla and Ollie, launched their television career on station WBKB in Chicago. In 1947, Fran Allison joined them. They first appeared on television in 1949 and became one of NBC's most popular shows. They left NBC in 1955 and performed on ABC for two years.



Press Pick-up in West Press Lobby at 4:15 PM