

**The original documents are located in Box 29, folder “Bible Used at Swearing-in (on loan to American Freedom Train)” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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REMARKS BY GERALD R. FORD  
UPON BEING SWORN IN AS  
38TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
AUGUST 9, 1974, 12:00 NOON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOTE: The Bible upon which Mr. Ford's hand rested was opened to Proverbs, third chapter, the fifth and sixth verses. He learned these verses many years ago, and often says them as a prayer.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;  
and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he  
shall direct thy paths.

My fellow Americans:

The oath I have taken is the same oath that was taken by George Washington and by every President under the Constitution. But I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances, never before experienced by Americans. This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts.

Therefore, I feel it is my first duty to make an unprecedented compact with my countrymen. Not an inaugural address, not a fireside chat, not a campaign speech. Just a little straight talk among friends. I intend it to be the first of many.

I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your President by your ballots. So I ask you to confirm me as your President with your prayers. And I hope that such prayers will also be the first of many.

If you have not chosen me by secret ballot, neither have I gained office by secret promises. I have not campaigned either for the Presidency or the Vice Presidency. I have not subscribed to any partisan platform, I am indebted to no man and only to one woman -- my dear wife Betty -- as I begin the most difficult job in the world.

I have not sought this enormous responsibility, but I will not shirk it, any more than I did the sudden summons to the second office of our government only eight months ago. Those who nominated and confirmed me as Vice President were and are my friends. They were of both parties, elected by all the people, and acting



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Swearing-in Bible for  
both oath of office as  
President and Vice President.

"The Jerusalem Bible"  
was a gift from Mike.

General Editor Alexander  
Jones, publisher Doubleday &  
Company, Inc. He held  
his hand over proverbs <sup>#3</sup>

5 & 6



He keeps his help for honest men,  
 he is the shield of those whose ways are honourable;  
 he stands guard over the paths of justice,  
 he keeps watch on the way of his devoted ones.  
 Then you will understand what virtue is, justice, and fair dealing,  
 all paths that lead to happiness.

Ws 9:10A  
 Sl 1:1A  
 Dn 2:21A  
 Jm 1:5A

Ps 141:5

When wisdom comes into your heart  
 and knowledge is a delight to you,  
 then prudence will be there to watch over you,  
 and discernment be your guardian  
 to keep you from the way that is evil,  
 from the man whose speech is deceitful,  
 from those who leave the paths of honesty  
 to walk the roads of darkness:  
 men who find their joy in doing wrong,  
 and their delight in deceitfulness,  
 whose tracks are twisted,  
 and the paths that they tread crooked.

10:23

Keeping you also from the alien woman,<sup>b</sup>  
 from the stranger, with her wheedling words;  
 she has left the partner of her younger days,  
 she has forgotten the covenant of God;  
 towards death her house is declining,  
 down to the Shades her paths go.  
 Of those who go to her not one returns,  
 they never regain the paths of life.

5:2-20;  
 6:24-7:27  
 Sl 9:9; 23:22

Ex 20:14

So you will pursue the way of good men,  
 persisting in the paths of the virtuous.  
 For the land will be for honest men to live in,  
 the innocent will have it for their home;  
 while the wicked will be cut off from the land,  
 and the faithless rooted out of it.

Ps 27:9-29  
 Mt 5:4

10:30  
 Ps 52:5

How to acquire wisdom

3 My son, do not forget my teaching,  
 let your heart keep my principles,  
 for these will give you lengthier days,  
 longer years of life, and greater happiness.

8:35  
 Dt 8:1;  
 30:16  
 1 K 3:14  
 4:10; 9:11

Dt 4:40; 8:3  
 Ne 9:29  
 Sl 1:20

-6:21, -7:3  
 Dt 6:6-9  
 Sg 8:6  
 Jr 17:1

Let kindness and loyalty never leave you:  
 tie them round your neck,  
 write them on the tablet of your heart.  
 So shall you enjoy favour and good repute  
 in the sight of God and man.  
 Trust wholeheartedly in Yahweh,  
 put no faith in your own perception;

Jr 12:17

Lk 2:52

Ps 37:5

28:26

a. The meaning is, apparently, that as the bird  
 catches the net if it has seen the hunter spread it, so the  
 man who duly admonished will know how to avoid the  
 paths of life.

c. Lit. 'Such is the end' Greek; 'Such is the way'  
 Hebr.

d. 'in the streets' Greek; 'outside' Hebr.

e. Wisdom personified, cf. 8:22+, acts like a  
 prophet, cf. Jr 5:1; 7:2, walking through the streets and  
 preaching her doctrine on the people.

f. a. All wisdom comes from God, v. 6, but the  
 questions needed for receiving it are an enquiring

mind, vv. 3-4, and a willingness to learn from the  
 teaching of one's elders, vv. 1-2 etc.

b. I.e. another man's wife. This first section of Pr,  
 the last to be added to the collection, often warns  
 against adultery, 2:16-19; 5:2-23; 6:24-7:27. Adultery  
 is identified, 2:17, with apostasy from the covenant of  
 God, cf. also 5:15+; it leads to Sheol, 2:18; 5:5,6;  
 7:26-27. In these passages there is only one allusion to  
 prostitution, 6:26, which the older proverbs identify  
 with adultery, cf. 23:27; 31:3, cf. 29:3, since both corrupt  
 kings and rob warriors of their vigour.



16:3  
Sl 2:6  
26:12  
Ps 34:9,14  
Rm 12:16

in every course you take, have him in mind:  
he will see that your paths are smooth.  
Do not think of yourself as wise,  
fear Yahweh and turn your back on evil:  
health-giving, this, to your body,  
relief to your bones.

Mt 3:10-12  
Dt 26:1+  
Dt 28:8  
Ps 4:7

Honour Yahweh with what goods you have  
and with the first-fruits of all your returns;  
then your barns will be filled with wheat,<sup>a</sup>  
your vats overflowing with new wine.

Heb 12:5-6  
Jb 5:17  
26:12  
Dt 8:5+  
Rv 3:19

My son, do not scorn correction from Yahweh,  
do not resent his rebuke;  
for Yahweh reproves the man he loves,  
as a father checks a well-loved son.

### The joys of wisdom

20:15  
24+; 16:16

Happy the man who discovers wisdom,  
the man who gains discernment:  
gaining her is more rewarding than silver,  
more profitable than gold.

8:11

She is beyond the price of pearls,  
nothing you could covet is her equal.

8:18

In her right hand is length of days;  
in her left hand, riches and honour.

Ws 8:16  
Sl 4:12  
Mt 11:29

Her ways are delightful ways,  
her paths all lead to contentment.

11:30  
Gn 2:9; 3:22  
Rv 2:7

She is a tree of life for those who hold her fast,  
those who cling to her live happy lives.

8:22-31  
Ps 136:5

By wisdom, Yahweh set the earth on its foundations,  
by discernment, he fixed the heavens firm.  
Through his knowledge the depths were carved out,  
and the clouds rain down the dew.

4:20

My son, hold to sound judgment and to prudence,  
do not let them out of your sight;  
they will prove the life of your soul,  
an ornament round your neck.

1:9

You will go on your way in safety,  
your feet will not stumble.

4:12; 6:22

Ps 91:12

Ps 121:3;  
127:2

When you sit down,<sup>b</sup> you will not be afraid,  
when you lie down, sweet will be your sleep.

Ps 3:6

Have no fear of sudden terror  
or of assault from wicked men,

Ps 91:5  
1 P 3:14

Jb 5:19-27  
Ps 121:3

since Yahweh will be your guarantor,  
he will keep your steps from the snare.

Sl 4:3  
Mt 7:12

Do not refuse a kindness to anyone who begs it,  
if it is in your power to perform it.

13:12  
Mt 5:43-48  
Lk 10:25-37

Do not say to your neighbour,<sup>c</sup> 'Go away! Come another time!  
I will give it you tomorrow', if you can do it now.

Do not plot harm against your neighbour  
as he lives unsuspecting next door.

Do not pick a groundless quarrel with a man  
who has done you no harm.

23:17  
Ps 37:1  
Sl 11:21

Do not emulate the man of violence,<sup>d</sup>  
never model your conduct on his;

for the wilful wrong-doer is  
who confides only in his strength.  
Yahweh's curse lies on the  
but he blesses the home.  
He mocks those who mock  
but accords his favour to  
Honour is the portion of the  
all that fools inherit<sup>e</sup> is

### On choosing wisdom

† Listen, my sons, to a father's  
pay attention, and learn  
What I am commending to you  
do not discard my teaching.  
I too was once a son with  
in my mother's eyes a treasure.  
This was what he used to say:  
'Let your heart treasure wisdom,  
keep my principles and  
acquire wisdom, acquire prudence,  
never forget her, never  
Do not desert her, she will  
love her, she will watch over you.  
The beginning of wisdom is  
at the cost of all you have.  
Hold her close,<sup>b</sup> and she will  
embrace her, and she will  
she will set a crown of glory  
present you with a glorious

Listen, my son, take my words  
and the years of your life.  
I have educated you in the way of wisdom,  
I have guided you along the path of  
As you walk, your going will be  
as you run, you will not  
Hold fast to discipline, never  
keep your eyes on her,  
Never set your foot on the path of  
do not walk the way of the  
Avoid it, do not take it,  
turn your back on it, for  
For they cannot sleep in peace  
they miss their sleep if  
wickedness is the bread of  
and violence the wine of

The path of the virtuous  
its brightness growing

3 a. 'with wheat' Greek.

b. 'you sit down' Greek; 'you lie down' Heb.

c. 'Neighbour' originally meant companion, friend, associate, i.e., one with whom a man had a special relationship. But in Pr the word takes on a wider meaning 'kellow man', cf. 6:1, 3, 29; 25:9; 27:17. This is the step towards the broadening of the precept of Mt 5:43-48, which will reach its final form in the command of Jesus 'love your enemies', Mt 5:43f.

d. The seeming prosperity of the godless (cf. Pr 10:15).

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

28  
11

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY—  YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

*See p. 1*

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. \_\_\_\_\_

WILL CALL AGAIN  IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL  WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*fat length " 9 1/2 "*  
*zin.*  
*1/4 width " 6 1/2 "*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

REAR DE FORD

15



# The American Freedom Train Foundation

5205 LEESBURG PIKE, SUITE 800  
BAILEY'S CROSSROADS, VIRGINIA 22041

703/820-7300

February 11, 1975

MRS

My dear Mr. President:

Thank you very much for your generous offer to loan the bible used in your Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony to the American Freedom Train Foundation.

We have been in touch with Mrs. Nancy Howe for delivery arrangements as per your suggestion.

Your participation in the American Freedom Train will contribute to the success of this great event.

Very sincerely yours,

*Ruth A. Packard*

Ruth A. Packard  
Vice President of  
Artifacts Collection

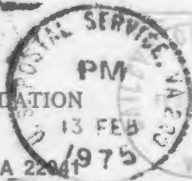
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

FEB 15 1975





THE AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN FOUNDATION  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES - SUITE 800,  
5205 LEESBURG PIKE, BAILEY'S CROSSROADS, VIRGINIA 22041



The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500





THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 24, 1975

To: Nancy Howe

From: Phil Buchen

The attached Exhibit Loan Agreement is approved for an insurance valuation of \$10,000 for the Bible used in the 1974 Swearing-in Ceremony for the President.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: DUDLEY CHAPMAN *DC*

SUBJECT: Insurance of the Swearing-In Bible

Nancy Howe tells me one of the President's letters as a former Congressman recently sold for \$1,500, which leads me to recommend a \$10,000 valuation.

I spoke with Peggy Amsterdam of The American Freedom Train Foundation who did not object to this figure. They have a blanket policy with a fixed aggregate amount that they are still well below.



270

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 24, 1975

Dudley,

For your immediate attention, please.

Philip Buchen



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 21, 1975

NOTE TO PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: Nancy M. Howe

Could you please look over this loan agreement to see if it meets your requirements and return to me as I plan to turn the Bible over to her on Monday.

Thank you.

*Nancy Howe*

*Send to  
Dudley on  
urgent basis*





March 20, 1975

Dear Mrs. Howe:

Enclosed please find the Exhibit Loan Agreement for the Presidential Swearing-In Bible that will be displayed on the American Freedom Train.

Please call to arrange for the pick-up and delivery of the Bible next week. We would love to have a member of the family present it to a member of the Foundation if that is at all possible.

Again, thank you very much for your gracious cooperation with this project. Your participation in the American Freedom Train Foundation will contribute to the success of this great event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Packard".

Ruth Packard  
Vice President  
Artifacts Collection

Mrs. Nancy Howe  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500





# The American Freedom Train Foundation

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

5205 LEESBURG PIKE, SUITE 800  
BAILEY'S CROSSROADS, VIRGINIA 22041

703/820-7300

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SECURITY PROVISIONS

Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Exhibit Loan Agreement, this memorandum sets forth the various security measures that the Foundation intends to incorporate into the American Freedom Train. These measures include physical security as well as controls and monitor systems for fire, smoke, dust, temperature, and humidity.

### 1. Temperature and Humidity and Air Cleaners

The temperature of the exhibition cars will be maintained at 70 degrees, with a variance of no more than 4 degrees above or below, in ambient temperatures ranging from -10 degrees to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The humidity will be maintained at 50% with a variance no greater than 4% above or below. In addition to temperature and humidity controls, there will be electrostatic air cleaners in each car.

### 2. Telemetry System

All temperature, humidity, and air cleaner functions will be monitored through a telemetry system, Moore Systems' (a subsidiary of Landis & Gyr) System AL configuration. This telemetry system will feature alarms, both visual and audio, channeled to a control panel in a central Control Car, which will be in operation 24 hours each day for the entire route of the train. The panel will advise of any variation in temperature and humidity that exceeds the standard. Control Center officers will have the capability of reaching the responsible mechanic by either handie-talkie, telephone, or electronic paging system to make any necessary adjustments. The heating and air conditioning system is being built by Airflow Company. The humidistats are being supplied by Penn Controls.

### 3. Fire Alarm and Suppression System

The fire alarm system is Kidde Halon 1301, a Dupont gas fire suppression system. The system incorporates both smoke and fire detection features and may be placed in operation either automatically or manually. The system in each car will be monitored by the duty officer in the security control room by means of the Moore System. As a supplementary backup detection system, we will also employ Detect-A-Fire, which is a rate compensated thermal detector.

4. Security

- a. All doors and windows will be protected against entry by electrical burglary detection measures to be monitored by the Moore System. If any door or window is opened, the control panel will show by light and sound alarm which car and door has been opened. The duty officer will have the facility to contact by radio or telephone all security officers constantly patrolling the exhibition cars.
- b. The Foundation will employ full-time experienced security officers. When the exhibition is open, there will be one uniformed, armed police officer per car on duty equipped with handie-talkie. Telephones in each car will provide backup communication to the Control Car which will have outside telephone capabilities. The Control Car will be located in front of the exhibition cars. All persons will go through the Control Car to reach the exhibition. No photography by the general public will be permitted in the exhibition cars. Smoking will also not be permitted in the exhibition cars.
- c. When the exhibition is not open, the cars will be checked every hour at irregular intervals and logs will be maintained in the Control Car. No one will be admitted to the exhibit cars while the train is in transit. The cooperation of Railroad Police, Highway Patrol, and/or state, county, or local police will be requested while the train is moving from city to city.

5. Fabrication of Exhibits

All objects will be received, secured, unpacked and installed by one of three companies contracted by the American Freedom Train Foundation. The three companies are GRS&W of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; General Exhibits and Displays, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois; and Design and Productions, Inc. of Springfield, Virginia. Exhibit designers are Barry Howard Associates of Larchmont, New York. Specified documents and artifacts will be specially cased for display. The design of the displays excludes the presence of natural or ultraviolet light. Lighting on paintings will not exceed 20-foot candles.

6. Alternative Systems

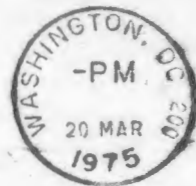
The American Freedom Train Foundation reserves the right to substitute the above brand name systems with those of comparable quality and performance and to supplement or otherwise revise these provisions as it deems prudent and desirable.

January 1975



**THE AMERICAN  
FREEDOM TRAIN  
FOUNDATION, INC.**

5205 Leesburg Pike  
Suite 800  
Bailey's Crossroads  
Virginia 22041



Mrs. Nancy Howe  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500





MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

*loan agreement*

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

*Ruth Packard*

OF (Organization)

*820-7300*

PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. *652-1111*

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*President's Bible* *2 minute*

*God w/c next Mon or Tues*

RECEIVED BY

*IRG*

DATE

TIME

**MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO.  
CODE/EXT. \_\_\_\_\_

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Handwritten:* p/h, [scribble], 2632, NH 9 2 11 30, [scribble]

*Stamp:* FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

February 5, 1975

Dear Mrs. Packard:

I will be happy to loan the bible used in my Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony to the American Freedom Train Foundation display in your exhibit car examining American "conflict and resolution," for a period of twenty-one months to two years as requested in your letter and per your telephone conversation with Miss Leonard.

May I suggest that you contact Mrs. Nancy Howe, Mrs. Ford's personal assistant, so that arrangements for the delivery of the bible may be made.

Congratulations on this most inspiring project and very best wishes for the continued success of the American Freedom Train.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ruth A. Packard  
Vice President of Artifacts  
The American Freedom Train Foundation  
5205 Leesburg Pike, Suite 800  
Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia 22041

GRF:nl

bcc: Mrs. Nancy Howe ✓





# The American Freedom Train Foundation

5205 LEESBURG PIKE, SUITE 800  
BAILEY'S CROSSROADS, VIRGINIA 22041

703/820-7300

January 22, 1975

My Dear Mr. President:

The American Freedom Train Foundation respectfully requests permission to borrow the bible used in your Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony for display in our exhibit car examining American "conflict and resolution".

This particular car will look at five Americans whose lives and work have had a significant impact on this nation, including Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In the final section of this car, we will portray our new President standing in the spotlight of history, proving once again that "ours is a government of laws and not men".

We would be most honored to have the opportunity to include your bible in this exhibit.

Thank you very much for your gracious support in this project.

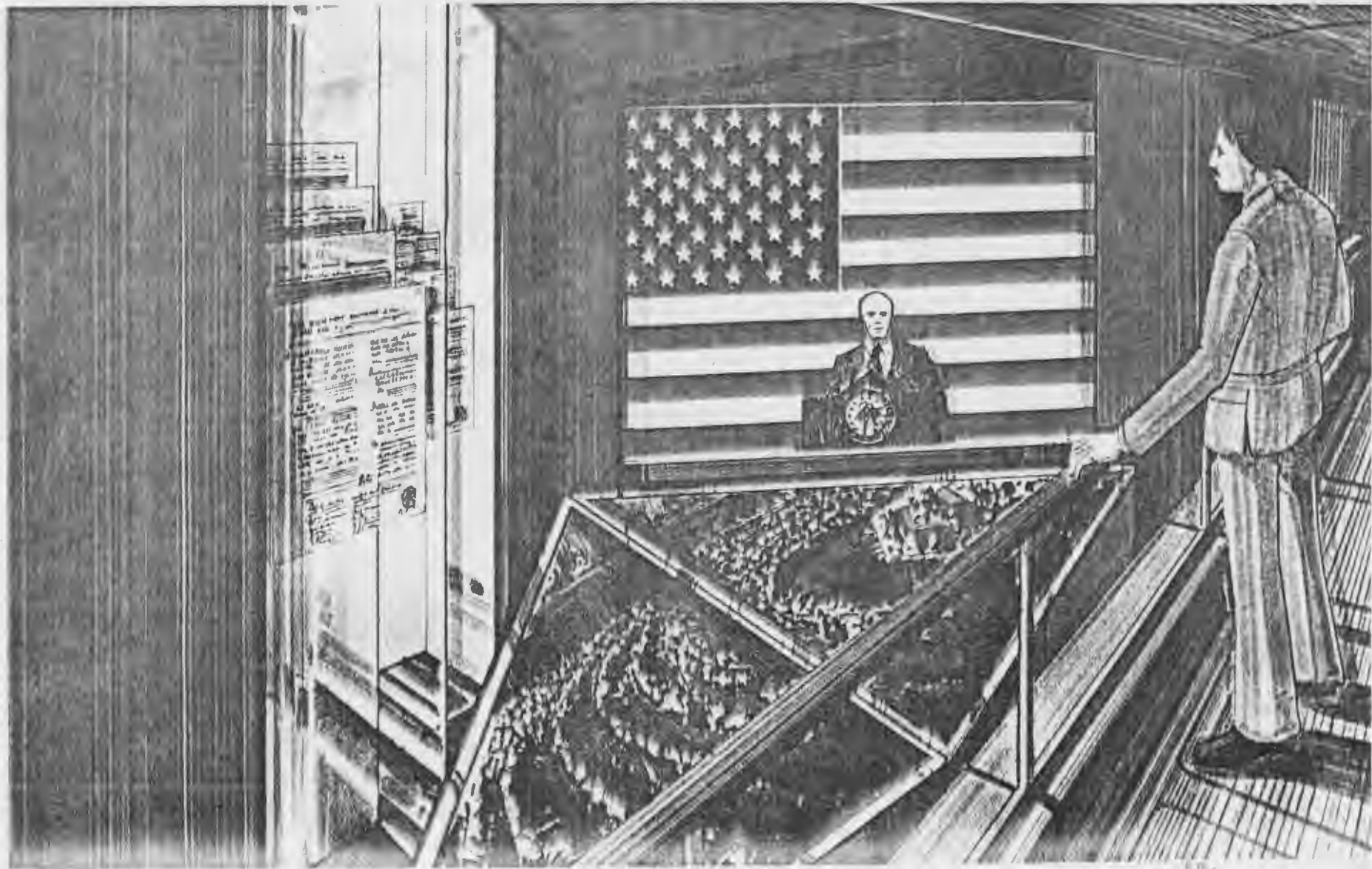
Very sincerely yours,

*Ruth A. Packard*

Ruth A. Packard  
Vice President of Artifacts

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500





RESEARCH LIBRARY

OFFICE OF THE ~~VICE~~ PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

To: The President

From: Mildred Leonard

Date: 1/23.75 Time \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.  
p.m.

Mr. Rumsfeld was given this letter by Mrs. Packard who is a friend of his. His secretary brought it up to me for disposition.

I'm not sure you would want to loan your bible to the American Freedom Train for their exhibit. But I did call Mrs. Packard and she assured me that every precaution is taken for protection of the articles they have on display in the train. I asked if one of your other bibles would suffice, but she said they are making every effort to keep all aspects of the train authentic.

They have articles belonging to Lincoln, FDR, JFK etc. and Martin Luther King's bible.

Your bible will be used with your picture in the last car of the train and an audio of your speech before the Joint Session in which you used the phrase "ours is a government of laws and not men." *will be played*

I told Mrs. Packard I would ask if you would loan it to them for a period of 21 months or two years. The train is going to all the States.

ml

OK

