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**THEIS, PAUL
IN HOUSE TFM**

October 14, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL THEIS
FROM: TED MARRS**

**Jack Marsh has asked for a meeting of the "In-House"
Bicentennial Task Force at 4:00 PM in his office
on Wednesday, October 15, 1975.**

Attached is a copy of the agenda to be covered.

Attachment

MEM/sjd

bc: Jack Marsh



October 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE
FROM: TED HARRS

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FROM: TED MARRS

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FROM: TED HARRS

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bc: Jack Marsh



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FROM: TED MARRS

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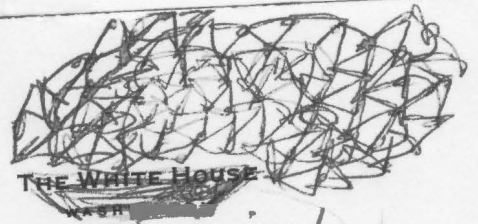
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

White House Bicentennial Task Force
Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 1975 ^{4:30}~~4:00~~ p.m.

Invited:

- ✓ Jim Cannon (Jim Cavanaugh is coming)
- ✓ Jim Connor
- ✓ Jerry Jones
- ✓ Ted Marris
- ✓ Milt Mitler
- ✓ Warren Rustand
- ✓ Paul Theis
- ✓ Bob Goldwin
- ✓ Russ Rourke
- ✓ Dick Cheney



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10/15 Bicent.
4:00 W.H.
Jash.
-124-

~~Cannon~~
~~Mitler~~
~~Connor~~
~~Goldwin~~
~~Marris~~
~~Rustand~~
Theis
Jones
~~Cheney~~

Frank
Lame



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: TED MARRS *TM*

Jack Marsh has asked for a meeting of the "In-House"
Bicentennial Task Force at 4:00 PM in his office
on Wednesday, October 15, 1975. *4/80*

Attached is a copy of the agenda to be covered.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

"IN-HOUSE BICENTENNIAL TASK FORCE"
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1975
4:00 PM
COUNSELLOR MARSH'S OFFICE

A G E N D A

The following items will be presented for discussion. This does not preclude the introduction of other items for consideration.

- ✓ Cape Canaveral Science and Technology Exposition.
 - Where it stands at this point.
- ✓ Insurance coverage for foreign visitors to the United States.
 - Status
- ✓ Foreign Government donation of chairs at colleges and universities as Bicentennial gift.
 - Should this be expanded and, if so, how.
- ✓ Elipse program for White House visitors.
 - Status of test effort.
- ✓ Policy on acceptance of Bicentennial gifts to President.
- ✓ Briefing by Dick Hite on D.C. Bicentennial activities -- parking, housing, Visitors' Center, etc.
- ✓ Briefing by Bob Caccia on Bicentennial activities of the U. S. Postal Service.



Q. What is the Postal Service planning as part of the national bicentennial observance?

A. Preceding the birth of the United States by almost one year, the Postal Service will celebrate its and the country's bicentennial this year and next with programs endorsed by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

Postal Service Bicentennial Post Office -

A recently restored building in Philadelphia located in Benjamin Franklin Square where Franklin, the first Postmaster General, lived and worked, has been designated as a colonial post office in honor of the bicentennial. The colonial post office, operated by postal employees, will be designated the B. Free Franklin Post Office. This project is in cooperation with the National Park Service.

Art Contest

Involving the children of postal employees, an art contest was conducted in early 1975. Entries from elementary and high school students were submitted depicting various phases of postal work and/or history. Out of nearly 3,000 entries, eleven winners were chosen by art departments in five universities across the country. The winners participated in an appropriate ceremony in connection with the issuance

of USPS bicentennial stamps at the B. Free Franklin Post Office in Philadelphia.

Art Exhibit

In conjunction with the National Art Education Association, the Postal Service conducted a public school art program in celebration of the Postal Service bicentennial. Of the art work submitted by 750,000 students nationwide, 3,000 pieces have been placed on traveling exhibits with art crisscrossing the country visiting museums, schools, post offices, shopping centers, etc. Kickoff of the program took place at the National Art Education Association's convention in Miami, Florida, in April 1975. It is estimated that well over 2,000,000 will view these exhibits.

Philatelic Passports

To add enjoyment and graphically validate the visiting of historic sites, the Postal Service has issued bicentennial philatelic passports. These passports contain maps of heritage sites and pages upon which unused U. S. postage stamps can be affixed. Hand cancellations are available at all post offices to validate the passport holder's visit.

Lock Boxes

Late in 1974 the Postal Service began receiving requests for local lock boxes designated by the numbers 1776 and 1976. The Postal Service has set aside those boxes not already in use for official bicentennial groups approved by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

Junior Committees of Correspondence

Celebrating both the country's and the Postal Service's 200th anniversary in the mode of the revolutionary days, the Junior Committees of Correspondence came into being through the sponsorship of the Postal Service, the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration and the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Over 5 million students participated last school year in this project designed to encourage children, grades 3 to 6, to become involved in bicentennial activities and to share these experiences with similarly inclined children through correspondence. During the 1976-77 school year over 12 million students from elementary through junior high school will participate in this program.

Commemorative Stamps

Since 1971, 15 stamps commemorating the bicentennial have been issued: Bicentennial symbol; Colonial Craftsmen; Rise of the Spirit of Independence Series (Pamphleteer, Posting a Broadside, Post Rider and Colonial Drummer); First Continental Congress; Boston Tea Party; Contributors to the Cause Series (Sybil Ludington, Peter Francisco, Haym Salomon, and Salem Poor); Lexington and Concord; Bunker Hill and Military Services Bicentennial (July 4, 1975). In celebrating its own beginning the Postal Service has issued a set of four stamps commemorating its 200th anniversary.

Fund Raising

The Postal Service is involved in helping bicentennial communities raise funds for bicentennial related projects. This is done through the sale of specially designed philatelic and philatelically related products. One product is a memorabilia collection consisting of three prints suitable for framing and a philatelic passport. The second product will be a series of two stamp albums. The stamp albums will contain bicentennial (both U. S. and foreign) commemorative stamps and will be entitled "The Stories of the American Revolution." These products will be sold through approved bicentennial groups only.

Exhibits

The Bicentennial Branch of the U. S. Postal Service has an exhibit which is used at various conventions. This booth is designed to inform people of the Postal Service's involvement in the bicentennial.

Employee Awards

The Postal Service has established an employee system to inspire participation in our nation's bicentennial. In order to qualify the employee must give voluntary service to his local bicentennial community organization. Our goal is to award 10,000 employees for their participation.

Book

A history of the Postal Service from pre-colonial times to the present has recently been compiled. In illustrated paperback form, "Appointed Rounds" is tentatively scheduled to be published in the fall of 1975.

Film

This half-hour film ---Nine Letters--- is a unique history of the country and the postal service as told through letters concerning: Clyde Barrow, Benjamin Franklin, Dolly Madison, a runaway slave and the freedom train, Mark Twain, Thomas Edison, Louis Armstrong, General George Patton, and a Navajo girl away at school. There will be two dramatized versions: One for television and the other for general audience distribution. The general version promotes stamp collecting as a way of discovering our nation's history. Film is scheduled to be released in September when the Postal Service celebrates its bicentennial.

Cape Canaveral Exhibition

The Postal Service is currently working with NASA to determine the nature and extent of the Service's involvement.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

RUSS ROURKE *R*

Ted Marrs/Milt Mitler have asked for a proposed date from you in order that they might schedule another federal agency bicentennial task force meeting.

Set up

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Pick
a
good
time

SEP 26 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 25, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE
FROM: MILT MITLER *meel*

Just a reminder. I still have the "Bicentennial - USA" film which Jack wanted to see.

It covers the themes and goals of our nation's 200th anniversary and offers glimpses of Bicentennial activities taking place across the country.

Included are excerpts from historic reenactments, plays and performing arts developed by students for the Bicentennial. Also, Western oral history and projects for the Third Century.

Running time is about 13 minutes.

*Jack -
See attached memo -
R.
Lets look at it
on T/V
M*

September 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

Milt Mitler advises me that they now have a print of the "Bicentennial USA" film. It is a 16mm product and cannot, therefore, be shown on our in-house Channel 2. This 20 minute film can be set up anytime at your convenience in the White House Theater.

Please advise.

RAR/dl



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. Marsh --

Attached are two schedule proposals
you wanted to discuss at the next
meeting of the White House Bicentennial
Task Force.

Thanks.

donna



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Donna-

As per Tom's
note, please put
this in file for our
next Task Force
mtg. Thanks,

Russ

R -

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

For W/Hse

B, Cont T/F.

D - no paper
clips this
folder. - M

THE WHITE HOUSE

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

DATE: October 7, 1975

FROM: Ted Marrs *JEM*

THRU: Jack Marsh

VIA: Warren Rustand

ATTEND: World premier of "The Ballad of Valley Forge,"
a special salute to the Bicentennial to be
held at Valley Forge.

DATE: May 8, 1976

PURPOSE: To participate in special commemorative ceremonies
at historic Valley Forge at which the heroic deeds
of Washington's forces will be retold in music and
ceremony.

FORMAT: A musical ceremonial panorama complete with 11,000
marchers representing the number of troops with
George Washington. The activity will take place
at Valley Forge Amphitheater, George Washington
Headquarters, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

CABINET
PARTICIPATION: None

SPEECH
MATERIAL: To be prepared by Editorial Division

STAFF: JACK MARSH
TED MARRS
MILT MITLER

RECOMMEND: JACK MARSH
TED MARRS
BOB GOLDWIN
HUGH SCOTT
MAX FRIEDERSDORF
MILT MITLER

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: None

BACKGROUND: To commemorate the Bicentennial, Montgomery
County Bicentennial Commission, Pennsylvania,
selected Valley Forge as the ideal site. They
commissioned two composers, Elliott Lawrence and
Bickley Reichner, to write a special symphony
which would tell in song, lyrics and narration
the story of that historic site and those who

were there at the time history was made.

The result of this effort is "The Ballad of Valley Forge" which will be premiered on May 8, 1976 at the Valley Forge Amphitheater in a performance by the 100 member Pottstown Symphony Orchestra with a 500 voice choir from Montgomery County. Contact has also been made with actor Jimmy Stewart seeking his assistance as narrator.

In addition, to complete the scenario for a full celebration, arrangements are being made for a Grand March of 11,000 representing the number of troops George Washington had at Valley Forge as well as 1,000 members of the National Guard for a Cannon and Rifle Salute in a "Feu de Joye," memorializing the French Alliance. There are also plans for a 150 local aircraft fly-over.

Audience participation has been estimated from 20,000 to 40,000. The introduction to the President is scheduled at 2:30 p.m. and the finale at 4:00 p.m. In addition to Presidential remarks, it would be most appropriate for the President to visit the Washington Memorial Chapel and offer a prayer in memory of the occasion.

Senator Hugh Scott (R-Pa) is fully supportive of this program and plans to attend the event. He has also voiced a personal desire for the possibility of Presidential participation.

Meetings have been held with representatives of the committee and we are satisfied that the plans as outlined, with little modification, will be carried out. Therefore, we highly recommend participation.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESIDENT

DATE: October 3, 1975

FROM: Ted Marrs *JM*

THRU: Jack Marsh

VIA: Warren Rustand

ADDRESS: The dedication of Fort Stanwix National Monument
in Rome, New York.

DATE: May 2, 1976, or any date that would accommodate
the President's schedule.

PURPOSE: To assist in dedicating one of the largest Federal
Bicentennial projects and to commend the people of
Rome, New York for their wholehearted support of this
project.

FORMAT: Fort Stanwix National Monument
Rome, New York
List of participants to be provided

CABINET
PARTICIPATION: None

SPEECH
MATERIAL: Speech to be provided by Editorial Division

STAFF: JACK MARSH
TED MARRS
MAX FRIEDERSDORF
MILT MITLER

RECOMMEND: JACK MARSH
TED MARRS
MAX FRIEDERSDORF
MILT MITLER

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: None

PRESS COVERAGE: Full press coverage.

BACKGROUND: Fort Stanwix is a Bicentennial project scheduled for
completion by January 1, 1976, although the formal
dedication (due to climatic conditions) will not be
held until Spring. It is one of the three most
expensive projects funded by the National Park Service,

at an amount exceeding \$10 million. The only two other projects that approach this magnitude are the National Visitor Center in Washington and Benjamin Franklin Court in Philadelphia.

The Fort is the focal point for a major renovation in downtown Rome, New York. The Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City have a partnership involving a \$30 million revitalization of the central business district.

The closest of the significant sized cities are Utica, 7 miles away, and Syracuse, about 50 miles away. Rome is the home of Griffiss Air Force Base under the Strategic Air Command. These factors support a strong crowd-building situation for this event.

For three years, the Park Service conducted archeological research of the site. They recovered over 80,000 artifacts during digging and discovered more during construction. Many of these will be used or exhibited in the completed structure.

The Fort is being built with 20th Century techniques to assure that it will stand permanently, rather than the techniques used in the 18th Century. The appearance will be essentially the same as it was two hundred years ago.

The history of the Fort makes it one of the most fascinating Federal projects now underway. It was first used in the French and Indian Wars before the Revolution, and more importantly in 1777 when battles there so depleted the British forces that they were not at full strength for the battles at Saratoga. Saratoga was one of the most decisive battles of the Revolution.

Mayor William A. Valentine of Rome, a life-long Republican and Past President of the New York State Conference of Mayors, is the initiator of this invitation, which is highly endorsed by Donald Mitchell, Republican Congressman of New York.

Page 3

A representative of the National Park Service came to the White House Bicentennial Office to discuss this event in more detail, and we, as well as they, recommend it highly. The people of Rome, New York are all very enthused with this project. Thousands turned out for the ground-breaking ceremony.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____

12/11

Thurs

3:00

~~Goldstein~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Cheney

~~Assis~~

Richard
Brenner

~~Miller~~

X2950

~~Conroy~~

Ceter

~~Cannon~~

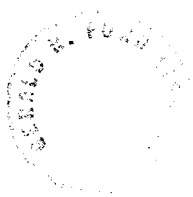
~~Rosen~~

~~Nichols~~

~~Ther~~

~~Jones~~

Marsh



Donna -

Please note

and calendar

for approx.

3-4 weeks

from now -

same participants

as last meeting.

Russ

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 7, 1975

12/11
3:00
[Handwritten signature]

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Rourke*

Jack, Bob Goldwin has indicated an interest in having another Presidential Participation/Bicentennial meeting. I would agree that it is getting near the time when we ought to tighten our reins once again as you did several months ago.

I have asked Mitler to contact ARBA for another print-out on "meaningful" Bicentennial activities. I would recommend following the same pattern we did the last time around.

Goldwin, Marrs, et al., found the guidance that resulted from that last meeting to be extremely useful. I would suggest having such a meeting in approximately three weeks. Since November and December are just about wrapped up as far as the President's schedule is concerned, our next meeting ought to address itself to Presidential/Bicentennial Participation for January-November 1976, with particular attention to July 3, 4 and 5 and the visits of delegates from England, France and other foreign nations.

op!
20 m + 10
6/11/75
M

Bicentennial

DEC 17 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: MILT MITLER *Milt*

Attached are Minutes covering the general trend of the "In House Bicentennial Task Force" Meeting held on December 11th.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 11, 1975

A meeting of the "In House Bicentennial Task Force", called by Counsellor John O. Marsh, Jr., was held starting at 3:00 PM. In attendance were: John O. Marsh, Jr., Russell Rourke, Theodore C. Marrs, James Cannon, William Nicholson, Robert Goldwin, Paul Theis, David Hoopes and Milton E. Mitler.

A special message from the President on January 1, 1976 was discussed and it was agreed that Paul Theis' office would do such a message taking suggestions from others at the meeting.

Although no decision was made concerning the release of the message, it was pointed out that the President has a taping session scheduled for next Friday (December 19) and that might be a good time to film the message as well as one which had been recommended for use by groups and organizations that requested Presidential appearance where such appearance could not be accomplished.

The group was told that it has now been agreed the Queen would ring the new bell in Philadelphia first even though she will be there after the President goes to that city.

There is no decision as yet concerning the Queen's residence while she is in Washington. Her request that it be the White House is being considered.

The suggestion for a private luncheon with President and Mrs. Ford and the Queen and Prince Phillip, following the official reception on July 7, 1976, is being considered.

The concept of the Heads of State all being invited during a two day period in July has been approved by the President. A Presidential letter or memo to the State Department is needed in order to get this moving. The suggested period is during the third week in that month. In discussing which days of the week, two possible problem areas were surfaced. If a Friday and Saturday were used, there could be the question of a religious problem in the case of Israel. The dates of the Democratic National Convention should also be checked so that the visit does not coincide with them.

State should be asked for their recommendation.

The National Security Council has tentatively blocked out times for visits from Denmark, Sweden and Ireland. These would be separated from the large number to be invited in July.

An appropriate gift to visiting Heads of State was discussed. The group was shown the prototype of the copy of the Declaration of Independence which could be produced on parchment from a stone plate which was made in the early 1800's. The copy would be placed in a special box of American Walnut, lined with velvet, and with a brass plate inscription on the top. Supposedly, the copies pulled for this purpose will exhaust the source from that particular plate. GSA has agreed to fund this. Cost: About \$16,000.

Questions were raised concerning the presentation of a boxed gift of this nature, the fact that the document is in effect "selling" our revolution to some countries which may not feel kindly to that, and the over all importance of the gift.

Other suggestions offered: A Kentucky Rifle, a replica of the Minute Man, a copy of a set of oils at the Delaware Museum, the possibility of commissioning a work of art. Also, medals and coins which commemorate the Bicentennial.

The Medal of Freedom was discussed and the suggestion made that such medals be given the first time by President Ford on the evening of July 3, 1976 at the "Honor America" function. David Hoopes was asked to look into this.

Bob Goldwin suggested a Schedule Proposal for Washington's Birthday to bring the President to Johns Hopkins University which will be celebrating their Centennial on that date. The calendar shows that the day selected for Washington's Birthday next year is February 16th and not the 22nd.

Jack Marsh asked Russ Rourke to arrange a meeting in early January to discuss just the scheduling of the President.

The display of Bicentennial gifts was discussed and Jack Marsh asked that it be accomplished as soon as possible.

The group was told about the miniature White House being made by John Zweifel and that it would be displayed on the Ellipse in conjunction with the "Pageant of Peace" and from there be moved to Kennedy Center for the Christmas period.

The Science and Technology Exhibition at Cape Canaveral was discussed. Jack Marsh asked if this was really ready for a Presidential press conference. The general agreement was that this should be looked at further to determine if it has reached that point or if a Presidential announcement should be delayed. It was also suggested that this might be a part of a regular press conference or combined with other announcements on the Bicentennial.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

WH Bicentennial
Task Force

January 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

I have advised Ted to make the necessary arrangements for your suggested in-house Bicentennial meeting early next week. Milt will pull together information on Heads of State dates, proclamations and will utilize the Capitol Hill Historic calenders.

RAR/dl



100-100-100-100

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE

I have advised Ted to make the necessary arrangements for your suggested in-house Bicentennial meeting early next week. Milt will pull together information on Heads of State dates, proclamations and will utilize the Capitol Hill Historic calenders.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Set
M. B. Cant
Bi
with
this

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Rourke*

Jack, I had several problems with the attached. After calling Milt, however, I am satisfied that the project is a sound one, and should be pursued.

I was particularly disturbed over Kienlen's suggestion that there be "no public announcement" on this series and that "at the end of '76", these messages would be boundⁿ to a compendium of historical significance...neither of these suggestions would do the President a damn bit of good in November, 1976. Milt agreed completely and, without prostituting the situation in any way, will work on a program that will permit the publication of these messages ~~as~~ they are signed, in order that the Italians might be aware that we are honoring an Italian, and the Jews are aware that we are honoring a Jew, etc., etc.

SEPARATE SUBJECT:

The draft proclamation referred to on the bottom of Page 4 of Kienlen's memo, is on its way over this afternoon. In order to meet the tight time frame, the original of this proclamation has already been sent to Bob Linder, with instructions to hold it pending your sign-off.

DEC 30 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: TED MARRS *Jed*

Jack, based on a long talk Milt had with Ron Kienlen, who handles proclamation matters for OMB, this seems like a workable and profitable idea. I would suggest we put it into being and begin with the suggested message for January 4, 1976. There was a bill in Congress designating January 4th as Haym Salomon Day -- it passed the Senate but has not come out of the House Committee and the indications are that it will not be considered until sometime in March.

Attachments



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

December 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MILT MITLER

FROM:

RON KIENLEN

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron", is written over the printed name "RON KIENLEN".

Subject: Proposed Series of Presidential Bicentennial
Messages

It is anticipated that 1976 will see an increase in requests for proclamations honoring patriots of the Revolutionary War; e.g., S.J. Res. 99, passed by the Senate on October 9, 1975, for Haym Salomon Day, on January 4, 1976.

There are at least the following joint resolutions pending in the Congress to honor other American patriots: Benjamin Franklin Day on January 17 (S.J.Res. 117), National Patriotism Week beginning the week of the third Monday in February (S.J. Res. 78, H.J. Res. 159, 413, 450, 488, 562, and 705), Thomas Jefferson Day on April 13 (H.J. Res. 670), John Hanson Day on April 14 (S.J.Res. 110 and H.J. Res. 159), and Revolutionary War Day on April 19 (H.J. Res. 688).

Special groups, usually ethnic, have requested recognition for the special contributions of outstanding individuals or of an ethnic culture;

e.g., the American Bicentennial Commission, Inc., by letter of May 19, 1975 (copy attached), requested an American-Italian Day on September 20, 1975, in connection with their Bicentennial activities. That request was not approved. The most recent request is for a National Heritage Week sometime in 1976, from Jay Niemezyk of the Republican National Committee, by letter of November 24, 1975. Although they have not been collected, there also have been numerous suggestions in the media that efforts be made to recognize all the various ethnic and minority contributions to our successful war for independence and our building of a nation.

It is simply impossible to recognize each of those contributions by an individual proclamation designating a week or a day to be marked with nationwide commemorative activities. The alternative of picking and choosing among the multitude of candidates to select two or three, while satisfying a few, will leave many citizens and minority and ethnic groups feeling slighted during 1976.

A preferable solution, which would enable the President to respond to a wide variety of ethnic and minority interests during 1976, is to issue special Presidential Bicentennial Messages. These messages could be issued on a periodic or routine basis, and could call attention to the significant contribution to our Nation's beginning by ethnic, minority, and other figures. Each Presidential Bicentennial Message could be issued on an appropriate anniversary.

The first such message could recount the contributions of Haym Salomon, and would be issued on January 4, 1976, the anniversary of his death.

The content of such messages could be limited to individuals or could include groups which performed a significant contribution. These messages, in addition to the usual public release and publication in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, could be provided to interested groups and individuals. At the end of 1976, these Presidential Bicentennial Messages might constitute a significant collection of historical comments on our Nation's beginnings by the President.

It would appear appropriate for the White House Bicentennial Office and ARBA to be responsible for these messages. It would be appropriate to leave the category of such Presidential Bicentennial Messages flexible, so that any event worthy of historical note or contemporary interest could be included. A partial list for January 1976 might be as follows:

- Jan. 4 The Death of Haym Salomon.
- Jan. 10 Birthday of Ethan Allen.
- Jan. 11 Birthday of Alexander Hamilton.
- Jan. 15 Birthday of Philip Livingston, signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- Jan. 17 Birthday of Benjamin Franklin.

- Jan. 23 Birthday of John Hancock, first signer
 of the Declaration of Independence.
- Jan. 23 Birthday of Joseph Hewes, signer of
 the Declaration of Independence.
- Jan. 29 Birthday of Thomas Paine.

One last important note. I suggest that this series simply be done and that no public announcement be issued, so that the series would gain its own momentum and be noted for its own merits, rather than have it appear to be a publicity ploy.

The series could be put together on a month by month basis as the year progressed. The Presidential Bicentennial Messages could be issued on an irregular basis whenever an anniversary event occurs. The more the better, within resource limitations.

The Presidential Bicentennial Messages would be dated, but not numbered. However, if the series turns out as suggested, perhaps they could be subsequently numbered and reprinted in a completed special series.

I've briefly suggested this program to Gene Skora at ARBA, who reacted favorably to taking up the idea.

~~ARBA~~
ARBA also has been asked to draft a proclamation designating 1976 as the Bicentennial Year. I would hope that such a proclamation could be signed

on December 31, 1975, and published in the Federal Register on January 2, 1976.

Enclosure

MAY 21 1975



AMERICAN ITALIAN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, Inc

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May 19, 1975

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Ford:

We respectfully request that a proclamation be issued on September 20, 1975, designating this date as American-Italian Day in connection with our Bicentennial activities.

Your favorable consideration will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nicholas R. Beltrante
Public Affairs Director

NRB/sh