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SUGGESTED REMARKS, PRESENTATION OF "STONE" PLATE, PHILADELPHIA,
April 26, 1976

Franklin Square seems exactly the right place for this ceremony. Just think how many American heroes walked these streets during the fateful spring of 1776.

This marvelous restoration of the home and shop of Benjamin Franklin--the Grand Old Man of our Revolution--should remind us all of those exciting times. Franklin, who was an inventor, author, printer, diplomat, scientist and humorist, was at home in Philadelphia during the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

How pleased he would be to see this very special plate, made from the original Declaration, and a copy struck from that plate for Philadelphia in this birthday year.

But I believe Franklin, Jefferson, and the other drafters would be even more pleased to know the Declaration of Independence lives in the hearts of free people everywhere...and that two hundred years later America derives its just powers from the consent of the governed.

(Unveil the plate)

Revised Remarks, Presentation of "Stone" Plate,
Philadelphia, April 26, 1976

It's really a treat for me to be here today,
I have always been
because I have a special interest in the ~~De~~ Declaration
of ~~the~~ Independence and the 56 signers---who pledged
z "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred ~~name~~
honor."

this interest prompted my
Several years ago, I began collecting a proof set
of coins of all the signers. Just last month, I received
the last coin. It's really been fascinating, ~~because~~
more
because I've learned so much about these brave men.

~~The collection also has refreshed my appreciation of~~
~~the Declaration of Independence. That's why I~~ *really* admire
those Philadelphians who wanted to have the original
document back here for the Bicentennial. *because* I share
your pride in Philadelphia's important role in the
making of our Revolution.

Although the original is too fragile to move, I'm
so happy to be here for these ceremonies bringing two
special copies back ~~home~~ to the Declaration's home town.

excellent
As I visited this marvelous restoration of Benjamin
Franklin's home and shop, I was thinking what marvelous



For immediate release
Monday, April 26, 1976

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

TEXT OF MRS. FORD'S REMARKS AT UNVEILING OF THE "STONE PLATE"
ENGRAVING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN PHILADELPHIA
April 26, 1976

It's really a treat for me to be here today, because I have always been interested in the Declaration of Independence and the 56 signers---who pledged "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor."

Several years ago, this interest prompted my collecting a proof set of coins of all the signers. Just last month, I received the last coin. It's really been fascinating, because I've learned so much more about these brave men. I really admire those Philadelphians who wanted to have the original document back here for the Bicentennial, because I share your pride in Philadelphia's important role in the making of our Revolution.

Although the original is too fragile to move, I'm so happy to be here for these ceremonies bringing two special copies back to the Declaration's home town.

As I visited this excellent restoration of Benjamin Franklin's home and shop, I was thinking what marvelous stories Franklin could tell about those signers---who came to Philadelphia as colonials and left as Americans.

I imagine Franklin and all the signers would be interested in this ceremony. As a printer, Franklin would be fascinated with the copper plate, struck from the original Declaration in 1823, and with the copy made from that plate earlier this month especially for Philadelphia. But as a writer and philosopher, Franklin, and the other signers would most like to know what happened to the ideas of the Declaration.

We could tell them: "The Declaration lives in the hearts of free men everywhere and America derives its just powers from the consent of the governed---just as they envisioned so long ago in Philadelphia."

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NEWS

From
Committee to Return the
Declaration of Independence
to Philadelphia

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BETTY FORD TO PRESENT COPPER PLATE
OF DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
TO PHILADELPHIA

A presentation by First Lady Betty Ford of the copper plate of the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence at a ceremony Monday, April 26, at 3:15 p.m., at Franklin Court, (316 Market Street) will cap a year-long effort by a committee of public officials, business and community leaders to bring back to Philadelphia for the Bicentennial summer the original of the Declaration of Independence presently housed in Washington.

The copper plate made by William Stone, a printer, in 1823 by commission of the then Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, is acknowledged to be the only facsimile of the Declaration of Independence to be reproduced directly from the original document. In addition to the plate, which will remain in Philadelphia for the remainder of the Bicentennial year, Mrs. Ford will present in perpetuity, a print made recently by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing from the Declaration plate. It was the first time the plate was used since the 1890's. Both artifacts will be placed in the First Bank of the United States, 3rd Street between Walnut and Chestnut Streets as part of a special exhibit produced by the National Park Service which has jurisdiction over the building. (More)

Sponsored by Acme Markets, Gino's Inc., Girard Bank, Sunoco Stations, and John Wanamaker.
Coordinated by the City of Philadelphia Freedom Week Committee and Philadelphia '76, Inc. in association with the Morrison Company.

Betty Ford To Present Copper Plate

Ad 1

In a desire to create a more meaningful Bicentennial experience for the millions of visitors expected in Philadelphia for the nation's 200th birthday, the City of Philadelphia last May, through its Freedom Week Committee, initiated an effort to have the original engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence returned to the city where it was drafted, adopted and signed. A draft of the Declaration in Jefferson's hand is in Philadelphia, as is the broadside used by John Nixon when he read the document to the public in Independence Square on July 8, 1776.

A unique civic program developed in Philadelphia when five commercial firms -- Acme Markets, Gino's, Inc., Girard Bank, Sunoco Stations and John Wanamaker -- joined with the city and The Morrison Company, a sales promotion firm, in launching a massive community effort to obtain one million signatures on petitions directed to the President of the United States asking for the return of the priceless document. The Committee to Return the Declaration of Independence to Philadelphia marked the first time that such a diversified group of corporations joined in a unified effort for such a purpose. They provided some 600 outlets where the public could sign the petitions. Philadelphia '76, Inc., the City's Bicentennial agency, joined in the coordinating efforts to produce the vast number of signatures.

On March 22, a delegation presented to President Gerald R. Ford in a meeting in the Oval Room of the White House petitions bearing 700,000 signatures. A symbolic package was presented to the President by Anne Sceia, formerly with Girard Bank, while Sylvia Kauders, special events director for the city, who originated the project, presented President Ford with a quill pen and the first of the petitions that were signed at inaugural ceremonies on July 2 at Independence Hall.

(More)

Betty Ford to Present Copper Plate

Ad 2

President Ford expressed his admiration for the tremendous effort and regretted he could not comply with the request because of the fragility of the priceless document. His appreciation of the citizen effort has been crystalized by the designation of Mrs. Ford to be the presenter of the copper plate to Philadelphia.

- 30 -

4/23/76

The priceless 153-year-old William J. Stone copper plate engraving of the Declaration of Independence being lent to Philadelphia for the Bicentennial is the first exact and official reproduction of the complete engrossed Declaration ever made. It was prepared between 1820 and 1823 by order of Secretary of State John Quincy Adams. Stone produced the plate by direct impression from the original.

The stone plate is held in permanent custody for the people of the nation by the U.S. General Service's National Archives and Records Service, in Washington, D.C. It has been given on loan to the National Park Service for display in Philadelphia.

The plate was recently refurbished by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. This work on April 13 consisted of stripping the 25 11/16th by 30 3/4th inches plate of a protective wax and paper coating placed on it, apparently decades ago, to curb oxidation. After cleaning, the plate was found to be in perfect condition and a print was pulled from it by master printer Angelo LoVecchi using an old hand crank press. This print has also been lent to the Park Service and will be displayed along with the original plate.

It is thought that this was the first use of the plate since 1895 when six prints were thought to have been made. It was at that time that the Coast and Geodetic Survey made an exact electrolytic copy of the Stone plate for the Department of State; many facsimilies of this 1895 impression were made at that time.

Much earlier, in 1824, William J. Stone used his copper plate to print 200 copies on parchment to be distributed by the State Department to a variety of institutions and people, as directed by a Congressional resolution of May 26, 1824. These facsimilies bear the name of the engraver in the upper left corner and a certification by Adams in the upper right corner.

Stone was later allowed to print copies from his plate, on paper, for general distribution, but it is unknown exactly how many he made, although some sources indicate at least 4,000. These copies bear his name on the lower left side.

Stone facsimiles of either sort are now rare.



The 200 parchment copies from Stone's plate were distributed according to the Congressional resolution in 1824 as follows: "Two copies to each of the surviving signers of the Declaration of Independence; two copies to the President of the United States; two copies to the Vice President of the United States; two copies to the late President, Mr. Madison; two copies to the Marquis de Lafayette; twenty copies for the two Houses of Congress; twelve copies for the different Departments of the Government; two copies for the President's house; two copies for the Supreme Court room; one copy to each of the Governors of the States; and one copy to each branch of the Legislatures of the States; one copy to each of the Governors of the Territories of the United States; and one copy to the Legislative Council of each Territory; and the remaining copies to the different Universities and Colleges of the United States, as the President of the United States may direct."

The original engrossed Declaration of Independence from which the Stone plate was made is on permanent display in the National Archives.

William J. Stone

William J. Stone was born in London in 1789 and brought to the United States by an uncle in 1804. He was educated near Holmesburg, Pa., and learned engraving under Peter Maverick. He settled in Washington in 1815, and lived there until his death in 1865. His engraved work includes maps of Washington, 1820 and 1839; lithographs; and the facsimile of the Declaration of Independence. Stone married Elizabeth Lutrell of Washington, D.C. in 1821. Their son, Robert King Stone (born 1822, died 1877), was President Abraham Lincoln's physician and assisted at Lincoln's deathbed.

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Franklin Court Ceremony Platform Guests

1. Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
2. Dr. James O'Neill, Deputy Archivist of the United States
3. Mr. Chester L. Brooks, Regional Director of the National Park Service
4. Mrs. Anna Marie O'Brien, Deputy City Representative of the City of Philadelphia
5. Mr. Richard C. Bond, Chairman of the Board, Philadelphia'76, Inc.
6. Mr. John E. Strong, representing the committee to return the Declaration of Independence to Philadelphia

- Alan R. Squires - Sgt. at Arms
- Marc D. Brookman - Sec'y-Treas.Asst.
- Lawrence A. Isdaner - Sec'y
- Jerome B. Muchnick - Vice Pres.
- Rabbi Bertram W. Korn - Chaplain
- Ronald Rubin - Past Pres.
- Leonard S. Malmud - Past Pres.
- Maurice Hertzfeld - Past Pres.
- Irving Broudy - Past Pres.
- Morris Novick - Past Pres.
- Edward H. Rosen - Past Pres.
- Norman P. Zarwin - Past Pres.
- S. Ty Steinberg - Past Pres.
Chr. of Board
- Mrs. Ford
- Frank Brodsky - President
- Joseph H. Ball - Vice Pres.
- Hillel S. Levinson - City Man. Dir.
- Stanford G. Brooks - V.P. (incom.
Pres.)
- Elliot Rosen - Pres. of camp
- Walter I. Davidson - Past Pres.
- Kevy K. Kaiserman - Past Pres.
- William E. McKenna - Past Pres.
- William H. Sylk - Past Pres.
- Louis Glazer - Past Pres.
- Fredric R. Mann - former Amb. to Barbados
- Morris S. Jenkins - Past Pres.
- J. Sydney Hoffman - Judge Superior Court
- Samuel G. Berlin - Asst. to Pres.
- Rabbi Fredric Kazan - Chaplain (Benediction)
- Edwin J. Berkowitz - Treasurer

FRONT

APRIL 26, 1976

HEAD TABLE

GOLDEN SLIPPER CLUB

PHILADELPHIA (UPD) -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD YESTERDAY PRESENTED A COPY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ENGROSSED ON A COPPER PLATE TO A LOCAL GROUP WHICH UNSUCCESSFULLY HAD FOUGHT TO BRING THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT TO PHILADELPHIA.

THE COPPER PLATE, MADE IN 1823 BY WILLIAM STONE, IS THE ONLY FACSIMILE OF THE DECLARATION TO BE REPRODUCED DIRECTLY FROM THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

THE GROUP, THE COMMITTEE TO RETURN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE TO PHILADELPHIA, PETITIONED PRESIDENT FORD IN MARCH ALLOW THE ORIGINAL DECLARATION TAKEN TO PHILADELPHIA FOR THE BICENTENNIAL. FORD SAID HE COULD NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUEST BECAUSE THE PRICELESS DOCUMENT WAS TOO FRAGILE TO MOVE.

THE COPPER PLATE WILL REMAIN IN THE FIRST BANK OF THE UNITED STATES IN PHILADELPHIA FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE BICENTENNIAL.



SAMPLE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN QUOTES
FRANKLIN COURT EXHIBIT HALL

FEMALE VIRTUE

DEAR SISTER, I AM HIGHLY PLEASED WITH THE ACCOUNT CAPTAIN FREEMAN GIVES ME OF YOU. I ALWAYS JUDGED BY YOUR BEHAVIOUR WHEN A CHILD THAT YOU WOULD MAKE A GOOD, AGREEABLE WOMAN, AND YOU KNOW YOU WERE EVER MY PECULIAR FAVORITE. I HAVE BEEN THINKING WHAT WOULD BE A SUITABLE PRESENT FOR ME TO MAKE....I HAD ALMOST DETERMINED ON A TEA TABLE, BUT WHEN I CONSIDERED THAT THE CHARACTER OF A GOOD HOUSEWIFE WAS FAR PREFEREABLE TO THAT OF BEING ONLY A PRETTY GENTLEWOMAN, I CONCLUDED TO SEND YOU A SPINNING WHEEL, WHICH I HOPE YOU WILL ACCEPT AS A SMALL TOKEN OF MY SINCERE LOVE AND AFFECTION. SISTER, FAREWELL, AND REMEMBER THAT MODESTY, AS IT MAKES THE MOST HOMELY VIRGIN AMIABLE AND CHARMING, SO THE WANT OF IT INFALLIBLY RENDERS THE MOST PERFECT BEAUTY DISAGREEABLE AND ODIOS. BUT WHEN THAT BRIGHTEST OF FEMALE VIRTUES SHINES AMONG OTHER PERFECTIONS OF BODY AND MIND IN THE SAME PERSON, IT MAKES THE WOMAN MORE LOVELY THAN AN ANGEL.
(BF TO JANE MECOM, JAN. 6, 1727)

FEMALE PRIDE

WHY TRULY, IF WOMEN ARE PROUD, IT IS CERTAINLY OWING TO THE MEN....FOR IF THEY WILL BE SUCH SIMPLETONS AS TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES AT THEIR FEET AND FILL THEIR CREDULOUS EARS WITH EXTRAVAGANT PRAISES OF THEIR WIT, BEAUTY, AND OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS, (PERHAPS WHERE THERE ARE NONE TOO) AND WHEN WOMEN ARE BY THIS MEANS PERSUADED THAT THEY ARE SOMETHING MORE THAN HUMAN, WHAT WONDER IS IT, IF THEY CARRY THEMSELVES HAUGHTILY AND LIVE EXTRAVAGANTLY. NOTWITHSTANDING, I BELIEVE THERE ARE MORE INSTANCES OF EXTRAVAGANT PRIDE TO BE FOUND AMONG MEN THAN AMONG WOMEN, AND THIS FAULT IS CERTAINLY MORE HEINOUS IN THE FORMER THAN IN THE LATTER.
(SILENCE DOGOOD, MAY 28, 1722)

