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THE WHITE HOUSE

TRIP OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO NEBRASKA AND MISSOURI

MAY 7 - MAY 8, 1976

PRESS NOTES

NEBRASKA

The President last visited Nebraska on October 1, 1975 for a White House Conference on Domestic Affairs and the Economy in Omaha. As Vice President he visited Omaha on February 15, 1974, for a Republican fundraiser

The Archbishop Bergan-Mercy Hospital

The President will participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for two additions to the Archbishop Bergan-Mercy Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska Friday afternoon.

The first is the Skilled Nursing Facility located adjacent to the hospital. It is expected to cost \$4.5 million and will open in May, 1977, with a capacity of 250. The second unit is the East Tower, which will replace a 38-bed section of the hospital destroyed by a tornado on May 6, 1975. The new facility will cost about \$15 million and includes intensive care, coronary area, emergency rooms and radiology room. It is expected to be completed in July, 1978.

The Archbishop Bergan-Mercy Hospital was dedicated in 1964. It is owned by the Sisters of Mercy and was named for Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan, the leader of the Omaha archdiocese from 1948 to 1969. Archbishop Bergan died in 1972.

The Farm Forum

The President will participate in a Farm Forum in Omaha hosted by Senators Hruska and Curtis on Friday evening at the Holiday Inn, West. Farmers from all over the State of Nebraska have been invited to participate including those persons representing various farm organizations. Some of the organizations represented will be the Nebraska Wheat Growers, the Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Grain and Feed Dealers Association.

The University of Nebraska

The President will be the first President of the United States to give a commencement address and to receive an honorary degree at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, when he attends the 105th Annual Commencement exercise on Saturday, May 8, at 10:00 a.m. The President will be speaking to a graduating class of 2,300 students. The commencement exercise will be held in the Sports Center on the University campus. This will be the first University event ever to be held in the arena since its completion in March. The President will receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University. This will be presented to him by Chancellor Adam C. Breckenridge.

The University of Nebraska is now an institution of three major components -- the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska Medical School - Omaha -- and a collection of agricultural experimental stations and offices across the state. The University was chartered by the Nebraska Legislature in 1869 and held its first classes in 1871 in a three-story brick building on the outskirts of Lincoln. The University of Nebraska - Lincoln - now has ten colleges plus three schools and many other programs. Thirty-nine doctoral level, 61 masters, 110 undergraduate and 15 pre-professional areas of study are offered.

Former President Theodore Roosevelt received an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law in 1917. However, he did not receive the degree at the commencement ceremony that year.

## MISSOURI

The President last visited Missouri on January 5, 1976, when he addressed the American Farm Bureau Federation. He was last in Kansas City on September 12, 1975, when he addressed a GOP fundraising dinner.

### The Truman Statue

The President will participate in the unveiling of a statue of President Harry S Truman in the Jackson Square Courtyard at Independence, Missouri on Saturday at 2 p.m.

The statue was designed by Gilbert Franklin, Professor of Sculpture at the Rhode Island School of Design. The statue stands just under 9 feet tall and is made of bronze. It weighs one ton and is on a pedestal of mahogany granite. The base weight of the pedestal is six tons and the inscription reads: "Harry S Truman, 1884-1972, President of the United States, 1945-1953.)"

### The Harry S Truman Library

The President will tour the Truman Library following the unveiling of the statue. He will also place a wreath at the Truman gravesite.

The Library and Museum, dedicated on July 6, 1957, preserves the historical materials of President Truman. Included are gifts from foreign governments, a reproduction of the Oval Office during President Truman's term, the table on which the United Nations Charter was signed.

Harry S Truman, 33rd President, was born May 8, 1884. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1934, after serving as judge of the Jackson County Court in Missouri. He was nominated to be Vice President in 1944, and on April 12, 1945, he succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt as President. He served until 1952, returning to Independence to devote his time to lecturing and writing. He died December 26, 1972 and is buried in the courtyard of the Truman Library.

Other Presidents who have visited the Library include Presidents Hoover, Eisenhower, Johnson and Nixon.