

For immediate release
Friday, Dec. 13, 1974

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

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a Christmas Ball for members of Congress on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 9 p.m. It is black tie and will be held on the State Floor of the White House.

About 900 guests are expected. Included in the guest list are members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, Cabinet members, senior White House staff and congressional liaison aides at the White House.

Entertainment will be by New York pianist-orchestra leader Mike Carney, who will provide music for dancing in the East Room. A light buffet will be served in the State Dining Room and the Marine Dance Combo will provide music in the Grand Hall.

Table coverings will utilize the overall quilt-hand craft theme of the White House Christmas decor this year. Tables will be draped with red cloths topped with patchwork fabric which has been given to the White House by Papiers Peints, a fabric shop in New York. The material is a specially screened cloth in a red and green pattern called "Friendship Train and Clover."

Floral arrangements will be in 3-foot high gold genie baskets and will consist of red carnations and holly, oregon cedar and incense cedar. Arrangements on the cabaret tables in the dancing area will consist of hurricane lamps surrounded by mixed greens and holly.

There are three creche figures at the base of the Christmas tree in the Blue Room of the White House. The two angels are from Mexico and believed to be from the 18th century. They are on loan to the White House from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a gift of Mrs. Loretta Hines Howard of New York City in 1964. The figure of the infant is French and of the 18th Century. It is on loan from Mrs. Loretta Hines Howard.

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For details on press coverage, please call 456-6269 or check schedule on President's press office bulletin board.