

For immediate release
Monday, May 5, 1975

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

Mrs. Ford will host a luncheon for wives of members of the United States Senate Wednesday, May 5 at 1 p.m.

The luncheon will have a Washington-Jefferson theme, reflected in the music, tablecloths, centerpieces, china and gifts.

Guests include the wife of the Vice President; present and former Senate wives; and wives of Cabinet members and Presidential counselors.

The guests will enter through the Diplomatic Reception Room, where they will be greeted by a continuing performance by the Colonial Singers and Players of Washington, D.C., a group specializing in colonial American music. The group will also perform during the luncheon.

A reception will be held prior to the luncheon on the State floor, where Mrs. Ford will join her guests and mingle informally. Seating for the luncheon is unassigned, with each guest drawing a card prior to the reception which contains a table number. Mrs. Ford's table assignment will be made in the same way.

Each table will use a different set of china, representing Presidents from Washington through Lyndon Johnson. Guests will learn the set of china at their table from the card they draw. Tablecloths are made from cotton sheets in the Liberty Hall fabric by Wamsutta a pattern adapted from the border of a pattern on a 306-piece set of china George Washington bought for about \$150. The tablecloths are being donated by Garfinkels.

Each guest will receive a favor from Mrs. Ford, a Stieff pewter Jefferson Cup with a fern planting in each. Each cup is engraved with the "Betty Ford" signature and the date "1975" underneath the signature.

There are 12 tables, with 10 guests seated at each. A centerpiece

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on each table is a silver and pewter reproduction of the Annapolis Subscription Plate Bowl, the earliest surviving piece of silver made in Maryland. It commemorates the first recorded formal horse race in the state. The bowl is 4 1/2" high, 7 1/2" in diameter and 22.35 ounces in weight. The original is owned by the Baltimore Museum of Art, where it is on permanent display.

Also on the tables will be assorted sea shells collected from various beaches. About 24 different types of shell, on loan from the Collectors Cabinet on Connecticut Avenue, will be used.

Each silver and pewter centerpiece bowl will be filled with an assortment of summer garden flowers, including lavender and white sweet peas, white butterfly roses, sonia roses, dark blue and light blue delphinium, blue cornflowers, orange and yellow mid-century lilies, peonies, sterling silver roses and cut Boston and springari ferns.

Music in the Grand Hall will be provided by the Jefferson Consort of the Marine Band, a small chamber ensemble which plays music of the classic repertoire. The Consort members are periwigged and wear period uniforms of the early 1798 Marine Band. One female member of the band will be wearing a dress of the 1798 period as there were no female members of the band at that time (1798 is the year the Marine Band was formed.) The Ensemble is named for President Jefferson who was considered the father of the Marine Band because of his personal interest in the band.

The menu: Watercress soup; Boeuff en Gelee; Cold Vegetable Salad; Lemon Mousse with Strawberries; and Demitasse.

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