

For immediate release
Friday, June 13, 1975

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

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a State Dinner at the White House honoring the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mrs. Walter Scheel Monday, June 16 at 8 p. m.

Tennessee Ernie Ford, Sandi Burnett and the Opryland Singers will entertain in the East Room following the dinner.

The decor selected by Mrs. Ford for the State Dining Room centers on a collection of Americana from the 19th century. Known as American Historical Flasks, it is a collection of early glass bottles originally made as cheap containers for low-priced whiskey.

Now collector's items, the key to the popularity of the colorful glass bottles lies in the subject matter portrayed on the glass rather than the glass quality or artistic merit. Produced from about 1820 to the 1870s, the bottles record historical moments, political causes and public figures of the decade in short phrases. Examples, often used with appropriate symbols and portraits, are "The Father of his Country," "Rough and Ready," "For Pike's Peak," and "Success to the Railroads." (Father of his Country' honors were shared by Presidents Jackson and Taylor).

John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and LaFayette were frequent subjects for the bottles, as were such celebrities as Jenny Lind and DeWitt Clinton. Other popular designs included masonic emblems, cornucopias, grapes, sailing vessels and wheat sheaves.

Two flasks will be used on each table, with a fresh vegetable garden effect created around the bottles. Asparagus, artichokes, eggplant, bibb lettuce, cauliflower and grapes will be used. The vegetables will be interspersed with wild flowers.

At the base of the ficus trees in the corners of the State Dining Room will be an arrangement of fresh fruits, including oranges, grapefruit and honeydew melons. The fruits and vegetables are being donated by Safeway Stores, Inc. Mrs. Ford has asked that the produce be given to the Hospital for Sick Children of Washington, D. C. following the dinner.

The table arrangements are being created by Robert Miglio of Robert Webb, Inc. of New York City. Mr. Miglio is donating his services to the White House.

The tablecloths are made from sheet fabric in a plaid of white and varying shades of bright green. They are being donated to the White House by J. P. Stevens and Co. Inc of New York. The Johnson china will be used with the Morgentown crystal and vermeil flatwear.

The menu: melon and prosciutto; spring lamb persille; new peas with mint; artichokes with mushrooms; mimosa salad; Port-Salut cheese; and for dessert, bombe glacee pistachio with petits fours. Demitasse will be served. Wines are Robert Mondavi Chenin Elanc, Charles Krug Cabernet Sauvignon and Sonoma Vineyards Brut Cuvee, all California wines.

Dancing in the Grand Foyer to the Marine Dance Combo will follow the entertainment.

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