

WH Tours

For immediate release  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1976

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

---

To better accommodate visitors to the White House during the Bicentennial, the President and Mrs. Ford have asked that a number of changes be made in White House tour procedures.

These changes include:

- the extension of regular visitors hours,
- opening the grounds and gardens of the White House on a number of weekends throughout the year.
- establishing a waiting area on the Ellipse so that visitors will be comfortable while awaiting their tours. This also allows a system of ticketing so that visitors can better utilize their time until the hour of their tour.

Details of the changes:

From Tuesday, March 16 - Saturday, Oct. 23, a Visitors Waiting Area will be established on the Ellipse in cooperation with the National Park Service. During this period, visitors should proceed to the Ellipse south of the White House, not the East Gate. Tickets for the White House tours will be issued at the Ellipse from 8 a. m. - 12 noon Tuesday through Friday, and 8 a. m. - 1 p. m. on Saturday. Once tickets are obtained, visitors are free to do as they like until the time of their tour. Bleachers are available, and there will be entertainment most days. Visitors will be escorted from the Ellipse to the White House at the appointed time. Tickets are available on the day of the tour only. The Ellipse system was tried on a temporary basis last fall and found successful.

Visitors hours will be extended an hour during the week and two hours on Saturdays. Hours between March 16 and Oct. 23 will be 10 a. m. - 1 p. m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a. m. till 2 p. m. on Saturdays.

In addition, the President and Mrs. Ford have asked that the grounds and gardens of the White House be open one weekend a month from April through October. Dates will be announced.

In addition, to accommodate weekend travelers, the White House will remain open on three Monday holidays (it is normally closed on Mondays). These Mondays are: Memorial Day (May 31), Labor Day (Sept. 6) and Columbus Day (Oct. 11). Hours on those days will be 10-1 p. m. Ticket booths will be open 8 a. m. till 12 noon.

# # # #