

For immediate release
Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1976

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

Mrs. Ford will visit the Port Charlotte Cultural Center for senior citizens at about 3 p.m. today. She will tour the Center's theater, classrooms, lounge and eating area and visit the handcraft gift and workshop.

Greeting Mrs. Ford will be Col. Floyd Ffeiffer, president and director of the Center, and his wife Dorothy, director of the Theater.

Used more than 500,000 times last year, the Center is a regular place to gather for thousands of senior citizens in the Port Charlotte area. The Center is built and maintained entirely on private funds and by volunteer labor by the senior citizens. There are no state, local or federal government funds involved.

Included in the \$2,500,000 complex of buildings: classrooms which house a national-award winning continuing education program of more than 250 classes ranging from art to world affairs to nurse aid training; a library with more than 40,000 volumes, which has the largest circulation of any library in the state; a modern theater with production company offering plays, lectures and seminars at minimum cost; and a senior lounge and cafeteria area for the regular activities that are scheduled.

The senior citizens who use the center raise all their own funds for additional buildings through bazaars, sales and other projects, like the handcraft workshop and gift area. The buildings and facilities they have built have all been presented to the county.

The Center began in 1960 with the establishment of the continuing education program. The Center was begun in 1965. It's motto is "The Place that Friendship Built, it's goal to "serve the people by enriching their lives."