

For immediate release
Monday, May 17, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of Mrs. Ford's Press Secretary

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a white-tie dinner in honor of His Excellency the President of the Republic of France and Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing, on Monday, May 17, at 8 p.m.

Earl "Fatha" Hines, jazz pianist, will entertain in the East Room following the dinner.

Mrs. Ford has selected an Early American lighting collection as centerpieces. This includes lanterns, candelabra and candlesticks made of tin, brass, pewter and wrought iron. The theme is in honor of the French Bicentennial gift of a Sound and Light show at Mt. Vernon.

Anemones, Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing's favorite flower, sweet william, lilacs, rubrum lilies, sweetheart roses, heather and wax flowers will accent the lighting pieces.

The round tables will be covered with a reproduction of a French textile from around 1775, "Summer Flora." The cotton reproduction of red and blue wildflowers on an ecru background was made by Scalamandre Silks, Inc., of New York. The original is in the Textile Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The napkins will be tied with rose grosgrain ribbon. Tables will be set with the Johnson china, Monroe vermeil flatware and the Morgantown crystal.

Garlands of the same flowers used on the tables will decorate the sconces in the State Dining Room. Decorations in the cross hall, foyer and East Room will feature flowers of reds, pinks and purples. Geraniums will decorate the base of the ficus trees. Large containers of lilacs also will be used.

Jack Bangs of New York City donated his personal time to coordinate the decorations. The lighting pieces are on loan from the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont.

The menu: Columbia River Salmon, Sauce Verte, Filet of Beef, Artichokes Saint Germain, Mushrooms Provencale, Bibb Lettuce Salad, Brie Cheese, Basket Grand Marnier, Petits Fours, and Demitasse.

The wines: BV Beaufort, Pinot Chardonnay, Louis Martini, Cabernet Sauvignon, Schramsberg, Blanc de Blanc.

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