

For immediate release
Thursday, December 2, 1976

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

The President and Mrs. Ford will honor His Excellency Giulio Andreotti, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, at a black-tie dinner at the White House on Monday, December 6 at 8:00 p.m.

The musical trio of Tony Orlando and Dawn will perform in the East Room following dinner.

Table decorations for the dinner will feature allegorical animal sculptures by American artist Gant Gaither. The sculptures are humorous and whimsical representations of the animal kingdom done in bronze washed in silver and vermeil. Floral decorations include exotic American flowers.

The tablecloths will be the "Bagatelle" print, a hand-screened print of blended multi-colored abstract floral design in muted reds, oranges, greens, yellows, etc.

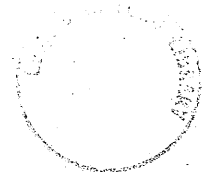
Tables will be set with the Johnson china, Kennedy crystal, and Monroe vermeil.

Decorations for the State Floor have been coordinated by Joan Peck, designer from New York.

The menu: Filet of Red Snapper Meuniere, Supreme of Rock Cornish Hen, Wild Rice Croquettes, Zucchini with Mushrooms, Watercress and Hearts of Palm Salad, Trappist Cheese, Chocolate Souffle with Vanilla Sauce, and Demitasse.

The wines: Saint Michelle Chenin Blanc, Louis Martini Cabernet Sauvignon, Beaulieu Extra Dry Champagne.

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Tony Orlando and Dawn, a trio of contemporary singers and entertainers will perform at the state dinner honoring His Excellency Giulio Andreotti, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, on December 6, 1976.

The 32-year-old Orlando is the star of Tony Orlando and Dawn CBS television show. The show, featuring Tony and two singers, Telma Hopkins and Joyce Vincent Wilson, who call themselves Dawn, is a mixture of ragtime and vaudeville music-comedy.

Tony Orlando was born on April 3, 1944 in New York City and began working at age 13 as a singer on demonstration recordings. Three years later he met Carole King and for the next year was the singer on all her demo records.

In 1961, he made his first single recording, "Halfway to Paradise", which was a hit, as was his second, "Bless You." He left performing to go into music publishing in 1963, but in 1970 he recorded the lead vocal on the song "Candida" with Telma Hopkins and Joyce Vincent Wilson. Candida became a hit, and was followed by "Knock Three Times." The Tony Orlando and Dawn trio then teamed up to make a success of hits, including "Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Ole Oak Tree," the number one single of 1973, and "Say, Has Anybody Seen My Sweet Gypsy Rose," "Stepping Out," "Gonna Boggie Tonight" and "He Don't Love You (Like I Love You)."

In the spring of 1974 the trio performed on the Grammy Awards broadcast and network executives signed them for their television debut. In 1976 Orlando won a People's Choice Award as the favorite all-around male performer.

Orlando and his wife, Elaine, and two sons, Jon and Kenny, live in Encino, California.

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