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SPECIAL INFORMATION REPORT4 July, Washington, D.C.

Walt Disney Productions has, in the past several weeks, built the Bob Hope-Billy Graham brain child, "Honor America Day," celebration at Washington into what will almost assuredly be the largest assemblage of any kind ever staged. The list of performers who will appear and entertain during the day's program consists of the biggest names in American entertainment. Aside from Billy Graham and other well-known religious leaders including Bishop Fulton Sheen who will handle the religious aspects of the celebration, the list of prominent people who will appear includes in part the following: Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Les Brown and his band, Glen Campbell, Barbara Eden, Roberta Flack, the Gold-Diggers, Theresa Graves, Lionel Hampton, Dorothy Lamour, Buck Owens, Dinah Shore, Red Skelton, Kate Smith, Connie Stevens, the Young Americans, Fred Waring, Johnny Cash, Billy Casper, and Frank Borman. A number of prominent members of the Senate and House of Representatives have also endorsed the "Honor America Day" celebration.

All three major American television networks will televise the morning religious program throughout the nation between 11:00 and noon. NBC will tape the evening entertainment for showing later in the Johnny Carson time-slot. Radio and film news coverage will be maintained throughout the day by all networks, and several local nonaffiliated radio stations are planning live coverage. It is also planned that the television coverage of the event will be broadcast via satellite to many parts of the world.

Buses, airplanes, and railroad cars, as well as auto caravans, are scheduled to arrive from points all over the eastern United States carrying visitors by the tens-of-thousands. Full-page advertisements have appeared in a number of newspapers including the Washington Post and the New York Times. The Maryland and Virginia suburbs have seen the distribution of advertising flyers (as far away as Leesburg, Virginia), and the General Services Administration has placed posters in a number

of Federal agencies in Washington. Free transportation, advertised as the "big lift to honor America," is being provided by a number of private enterprises. One main contributor is the Coca Cola Bottling Company.

Bob Hope has estimated the attendance for the affair will be 400,000. Past crowds demonstrating in the nation's capital in vast numbers include the civil rights march of 1963 which drew an estimated 200,000 and last November's peace rally with crowds estimated at about 250,000. The largest estimated group to ever attend anything anywhere was the Bethel, New York, Woodstock Music Fair which drew 300,000 people. In view of the organizing and publicity that has been skillfully carried out, it is believed that the Bob Hope estimate of 400,000 people is a very modest one. D.C. police estimate between 400,000 and 500,000. The crowd could exceed 500,000.

Bob Hope, who thus far has been the most informative public spokesman for the celebration, has emphasized that the evening performances will be purely entertainment. There will be no speeches and it is intended there will be a well-balanced representation of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Bob Hope has repeatedly stated that "Honor America Day" will be nonpolitical in nature.

For motorists who drive in from the suburbs, fringe parking spaces have been set aside at J. F. K. Stadium and at the Pentagon parking lot. D.C. Transit will provide shuttle service at the usual rates from the shuttle areas to the Federal Triangle.

Although the Hope-Graham enterprise has received popular endorsement, a number of irritants have arisen in past weeks which may cause the celebration to be something less than total sunshine and flowers. On 30 June, conservative preacher Dr. Carl McIntire said he and his March for Victory Committee will be in Washington on the 4th to support a military victory in Vietnam. The March for Victory Committee is planning a brief counterdemonstration Saturday morning when 500 persons in various parts of Washington will release 113,000 red, white, and blue balloons bearing the inscription, "Victory."

Col. Jeru Ahmed-Bey Hassan of the Blackman's Liberation Army had previously received a permit to conduct a 4 July demonstration at the Sylvan Theatre. Hassan has now postponed the event until 22 August. Although the Blackman's Liberation Army was invited to

take part in the "Honor America Day" celebration, Col. Hassan has declined, saying, "We do not want to be part of programmed patriotism." The colonel stated that he would prefer to work to stop the illegal drug traffic than to pretend that America is now united. "We will do nothing ever to dishonor America, but we do not feel like celebrating." (Col. Hassan and his group have for the past year been administering an unofficial but reasonably effective methadone program in Washington.)

Another group, the Sons of the American Revolution, which for 27 years has sponsored a 4 July celebration at the Washington Monument, has announced plans to go on with its scheduled program despite the fact that the timing conflicts with the "Honor America Day" schedule. A spokesman from the organization has stated that they have been sponsoring the event since 1943, and although they have no headline attractions they will continue their celebration.

The organizer of Veterans for Peace in Vietnam has issued a statement endorsed by former peacenik Senator Ernest Gruening and lesser figures protesting the exclusion from the program of veterans who oppose the war. The Veterans for Peace spokesman is also critical of the apparent authoritarian use of the Washington Monument site by the Bob Hope group.

One of Washington's radical revolutionaries, the Rev. Douglas Moore of the Black United Front, was quoted in the press on Tuesday to have issued plans for a "Dishonor America Day" for 4 July. Moore declined to detail his plans, but it is not believed that the Black United Front or any other force will involve the black community in counter-demonstrations. Abbie Hoffman and the Yippies have not altered their plans for a marijuana smoke-in scheduled for the same day and place. Prominent radical leader Rennie Davis who has dubbed himself chairman of the Emergency Committee to Prevent a 4th of July Fistfight has criticized the lack of new left participants in the "Honor America Day" festivities. Davis, as well as other new left spokesmen, has predicted difficulties in Washington between the Yippies and the "Honor America Day" celebrants. Representatives of "Honor America Day" have met with Davis and have listened to his ridiculous demands (including painting the Washington Monument in psychedelic style) and appear to have sought a soft approach in connection with radical leftist participants in the scheduled event. Celebration planners have rejected out of hand Abbie Hoffman's proposed appearance with Bob Hope as well as poet Allen

Ginsburg's appearing with Billy Graham as the religious guru of the political left.

Due to the strong nonpolitical line that the Hope group has pursued (which excludes national radical leaders such as Davis), they have not only shut out the leftist dissenters but have angered district democratic committeeman Channing Phillips and the Rev. Philip Newell of the Greater Washington Council of Churches. Due to the nonpolitical character of the event, Phillips and Newell have been told they will be unable to insert their annual hew and cry for D. C. home rule. Both local leaders have balked at the "no politics" ground rules and have pulled out of Saturday's celebration. Wash. Post 7-1-70

Two special trainloads of New-York "hard-hat" construction workers are due to arrive at Union Station Saturday morning. It is presently planned that five American University students will distribute antiwar literature at Union Station upon arrival of the workers. Wash. Post 7-1-70

Although Col. William Lee of the D. C. National Guard has ordered his 1700-men forces to duty over the weekend to be available in case of emergency, the Washington police department does not expect trouble. Wash. Post 7-1-70

Saturday's events certainly hold some potential for violence in the downtown area. The unpredictable Abbie Hoffman could (his colleague Jerry Rubin is still in jail) well decide to heckle Bob Hope and others on the program. The sheer size of the expected crowd will create police problems even in the absence of violence. The Union Station "hard-hat" arrival is a big potential trouble spot (especially if the American University contingent brings along a number of supporters) that will be closely watched by police and Union Station security forces. In spite of the potential for trouble on Saturday, it is believed that Bob Hope and Billy Graham, two thoroughly experienced big-crowd performers, will pull off a successful event built around pure patriotism and free of partisan political rhetoric. No direct attack on CIA facilities will occur. Wash. Post 7-1-70

There is an outside chance that the weather may partially interdict the affair. The predicted hot muggy weather could tax emergency first aid facilities, and the predicted possibility of afternoon or evening thundershowers could turn the Monument grounds into a sea of mud and the audience into a soggy mass of dampened spirits.