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[Kennedy Center Honors, 12/4/91]

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THE PRESIDENT HAS RECD
12/5/91

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 4, 1991

31 DEC 4 P6:01

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
 TONY SNOW ^{TS}

FROM: JOSEPH P. DUGGAN ^{JD}

SUBJECT: KENNEDY CENTER HONORS

I. SUMMARY

On Sunday, December 8, at 5:30 p.m., you will give brief remarks in the East Room about the winners of this year's Kennedy Center Honors. About 300 will attend.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (5 minutes, on cards) laud the seven winners and praise the Kennedy Center.

Note that the first two paragraphs and the final paragraph will become a video insert into the program later that evening at the Kennedy Center. The taped program will be broadcast at a later date on network television.

(Duggan/Simon)
December 4, 1991
Draft Two
KenCen

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KENNEDY CENTER HONORS
THE EAST ROOM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1991
5:30 P.M.

Barbara and I are delighted to take part in celebrating the achievement of seven outstanding Americans who have devoted their lives to the performing arts. Their work represents the carnival of creative diversity that makes America a nation like no other. They richly deserve their selection for the Kennedy Center Honors.

The Kennedy Center is truly our national center for performing arts. It plays a vital role in educating and nurturing young artists, helping ensure we will have exceptional performers and writers and composers to honor in decades to come. Barbara and I take great pleasure in attending performances of theater and music and dance at the center every season of the year.

And now, let me recognize the honorees for 1991:

Roy Acuff, from the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, is a minister's son. As a songwriter and singer he has that biblical genius for speaking straight to the heart. A prodigious publisher and impresario, he has created a following for America's country music in our cities and towns -- and even in places overseas. Like the Wabash Cannon Ball, Roy Acuff's music "glides along the woodland through the hills and by the shore."

We honor this mighty man for giving us music that not only is popular but is timeless.

Betty Comden and Adolph Green helped bring the American musical to full flower in the 1930s -- and their work is still flourishing in the 1990s, on Broadway and in Hollywood. In Peter Pan, their writing lifted Mary Martin to lyric heights no wires or pulleys could ever reach. In Singin' in the Rain, On the Town, Applause -- and dozens more productions -- they put song and dance and love and laughter together in a combination unmistakably American.

For the creative melding of American dance forms, and for sheer acrobatic virtuosity on the stage, there has never been a match for the Nicholas Brothers. Fayard Nicholas and his brother Harold have captivated audiences around the globe with their combinations of tap dance, jazz ballet and acrobatics. From the stage of the fabled Cotton Club to the great song-and-dance spectacles of the silver screen, the Nicholas Brothers have dazzled generations of Americans with the excitement and grace of their performances.

During four decades as a film actor, Gregory Peck has embodied strength and dignity in his portrayals. For moviegoers, Gregory Peck represents the faith of Father Chisholm, the humanity and courage of General Frank Savage, and the incorruptible devotion to justice of Atticus Finch. Off the screen, Gregory Peck has devoted his talent to leadership of the American Film Institute and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts

Pronounce

and Sciences. He wins our laurels today not only as an actor's actor, but also as a leader in his profession.

Robert Shaw has led the United States to unprecedented distinction in choral music. Robert Shaw is also a minister's son, and from the very beginning of his career he has harmonized the gift of song with his study of philosophy, theology and literature. Leading by example, he demands excellence from his students and his professional musicians and singers. He has given our nation a treasure of great performances, from the classical and sacred traditions as well as from the modern period and our own American folk idiom.

I speak for a grateful nation in honoring these artists. To Roy Acuff; to Betty Comden and Adolph Green; to Fayard Nicholas and Harold Nicholas; to Gregory Peck; and to Robert Shaw: Thank you for the wonders you have worked with your great talents.

May God bless each of you, and God bless the United States of America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 27, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR ROSE ZAMARIA

FROM: HELEN MOBLEY

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR KENNEDY CENTER
TICKETS

I would like to request four tickets to the President's Box to see "Bye Bye Birdie". The dates that I would prefer are January 3, 4, 10, 11, 18, 24 or 25. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.