

# Peak Capital Crowd Foreseen On July 4 Honor America Day

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WASHINGTON, June 29—Bob Hope, the comedian, who is national co-chairman of Honor America Day, forecast this morning that the July 4 celebration in Washington would attract "the biggest crowd that has even gathered for any show," estimating that more than 400,000 persons would come for the day's events.

Speaking at a news conference, Mr. Hope said the program would be "nonpolitical" and designed to "show Americans can have a good time together despite their differences."

"The country wants a day to be happy," Mr. Hope said. "The people want a day to forget their problems, to have a good time. We're trying to set up a program that will be solely entertainment, not politics. No one will have any cause to sell."

Mr. Hope, who wore an American flag lapel pin and had fashionably long sideburns, added that, during his travels across the country in recent weeks, he had found "great interest" in the celebration. Numerous Governors and Mayors, including New York's Mayor Lindsay, have endorsed the day, he said.

Organizers of Honor America Day include friends of President Nixon and supporters of the Administration's Indochina policies such as Mr. Hope. They have been planning the fete for about a month.

## Schedule for the Day

In the morning a religious service will be led at the Lincoln Memorial by the Rev. Billy Graham, who is national co-chairman with Mr. Hope. Other events include a flag procession and readings by clergymen of various faiths.

In the evening Mr. Hope will be master of ceremonies at an entertainment show at the Washington Monument grounds. The day will conclude with Washington's traditional display of fireworks, which attracted more than 100,000 persons last year.

The entertainment program will include performers, such as Kate Smith and Jack Benny. Some critics, such as Rennie C. Davis, a radical leader, have charged that young people and dissidents have been excluded. Mr. Hope said today, however that younger entertainers such as Glenn Campbell, a

country Western singer, and Theresa Graves, a black singer who appears on the "Laugh In" television show, would perform.

He also said that he had invited the Smothers Brothers, outspoken Vietnam war critics, but had not received an answer. Dick Gregory, a black comedian who has been active in the antiwar and civil rights movements, was also asked to appear, Mr. Hope said, but Mr. Gregory declined because of a previous engagement.

## Endorsements Cited

Mr. Hope said political leaders who had criticized the President's foreign and domestic policies had endorsed Honor America Day. He mentioned Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Senate majority leader, and Senator George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota.

When asked whether the New Left would be included in the program, Mr. Hope said:

"They can come in if they can offer us some entertainers. We want to give the country a lift. We want to see entertainment that's on the plus side. We don't want anything political."

Mr. Hope said he expected no violence. Discussing rumors that a "marijuana smoke-in" would be held by young people on the monument grounds July 4, he quipped, "Before this is over, I may need some of that stuff myself."

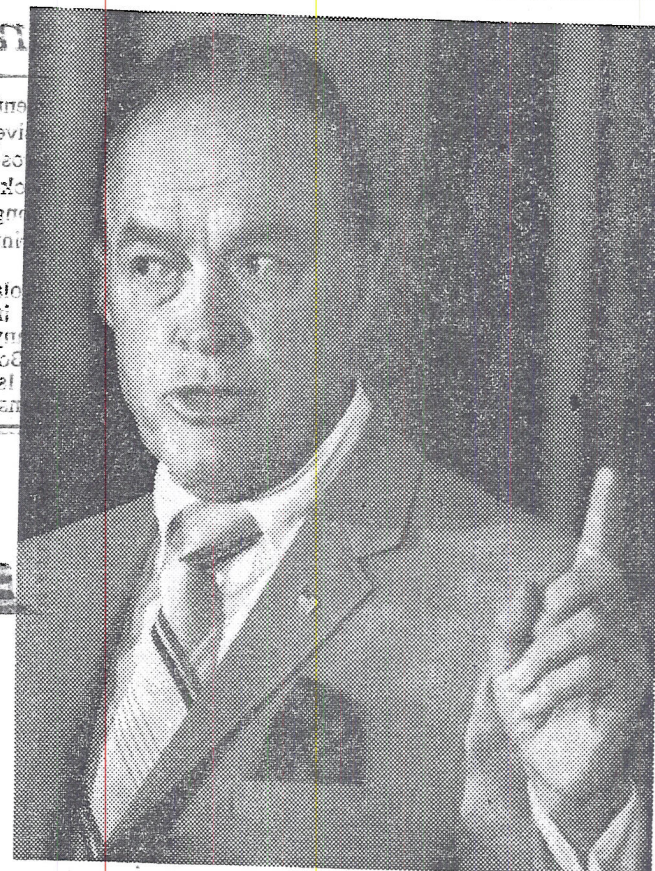
A Washington business executive who has been concerned with room accommodations for visitors said Mr. Hope's crowd estimate was "a ball park figure."

"But it's as good as anyone else's," he added. "There's no way in the world of telling how many people will come."

The largest crowds that have assembled in the city, most Washington observers agree, were those attending the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington in 1963, and those at the Peace Moratorium last November.

The crowd at the civil rights march was estimated at from 200,000 to 250,000. The group at the peace rally was placed at from 250,000 to 300,000.

Perhaps the largest crowd to attend an entertainment event in recent years—about 300,000—gathered at Bethel, N. Y., for the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in August, 1969.



Associated Press

**PLANS 'HONOR AMERICA DAY':** Bob Hope, national co-chairman for celebration in Washington on July 4, at a news session there yesterday. He predicted a huge crowd.