

Champagne, Strawberries . . .

By Dorothy McCordle

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Two black clouds threatened the annual garden party at the British Embassy Tuesday, which traditionally salutes the queen's birthday with champagne, strawberries and sunshine.

Weather reports had predicted showers all day. And the sudden death of former King Edward VIII of Great Britain—the Duke of Windsor—on Saturday plunged the entire British Empire into a two-week period of official mourning.

The sun has never yet failed the queen's birthday party, but by noon Tuesday people at the embassy were worried.

The showers held off, though, until the very dot of 7:30, the official time, the strawberry-and-cream celebration was due to end. Then, it poured — and those still strolling through the gardens broke into a run up the embassy steps, and into the drawing rooms.

Aides rushed out Union Jack umbrellas. Waiters scurried food indoors, where an alternate hospitality plan had already been set up for just such an emergency.

Most of the foreign ambassadors and U.S. government officials had come and gone, but Mayor and Mrs. Walter Washington, who had arrived late, had to duck the raindrops as they hurried inside.

The first dilemma—whether to hold the party—arose Sunday morning when word was received that Queen Elizabeth's Uncle David, the man who gave up his throne 36 years ago to

and Rain

marry the woman he loved, was dead.

"Then every British embassy around the world put in a call to Buckingham Palace in London to ask whether the queen wanted her birthday parties scheduled at this time, to be cancelled," a British official explained.

The word from the queen was that the show would go on. She said she knew the Duke of Windsor would want this tradition upheld.

Lady Cromer, the British ambassador's wife, who was expecting to wear a brilliantly hued garden gown for the party, changed plans immediately. She substi-

tuted a handsome, subdued black-and-white print gown.

Word was issued to male staff to wear black ties and dark suits and to women, to come in subdued gowns. All the British military officers in uniform wore black armbands.

Acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, as is his custom, was in dark clothes with a subdued tie, but his reply was exuberant when he was asked about Senate confirmation of his appointment as Attorney General.

"I expect to be confirmed the end of this week or the first of next," he said confidently. "I have it on the word of Sen. Mansfield" (Mike Mansfield, Senate Majority Leader).

The acting director of the FBI, J. Patrick Gray III, was also in subdued attire, which is standard for that job. Asked about his new post, he smiled widely, commenting: "I enjoy it very much, because I'm working with such great people."

Former Sen. Eugene McCarthy ducked in and out during the raindrops and



By Harry Naltchayan—The Washington Post

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III, far left, and Mrs. Gray talk with Lady Cromer, wife of the British ambassador, former Sen. Eugene McCarthy and Mrs. Gilbert Hahn at Tuesday's reception at the British Embassy.

said he "guesses" he's still a presidential candidate. He's got reservations for the Democratic National Convention in Miami Beach, so "I guess I'll go," he said.

George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, hadn't heard about subdued dress. In a bright pink shirt and a light blue tie, he pulled out his watch to time the clouds

overhead. It was then 7:10 p.m.

"It will not rain for another 20 minutes," he predicted, making him the day's best weather prophet.