

EXCLUSIVELY YOURS

Johnson Advocates
Surprised by News

BY BETTY BEALE

Candids and candid conversations have covered everything of late from presidential comment to Cleopatra's chapeau:

WHITE HOUSE PERSONNEL who were in Dallas on that fateful day in 1963 and were interviewed in depth afterward by William Manchester, who is writing a book on the Kennedy assassination—learning with some surprise that the book is due to be published next January.

The able newsman and author, whom Jacqueline Kennedy asked to write the history of the event, advised people he interviewed at the time that the book would not come out for at least five, and probably 10 years. According to the letter Mrs. Kennedy wrote to columnist Jim Bishop, the publication decision was entirely up to her.

Johnsonians can't help but wonder what kind of pro-Bobby impact this could have if it's published before the conventions of 1968.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON, who gets elected to the best dressed list without making any great sartorial effort, explaining at the White House why he didn't wear the newer and narrower mode in trousers.

"I can't get my feet in those narrow trousers," said the President. "They are too long."

One can't help suspecting that he really never tried and that it was simply a typically male excuse for clinging to comfortable old styles.

A METROPOLITAN OPERA-GOER who saw Leontyne Price in the premiere of "Anthony and Cleopatra" observing after the death scene when Leontyne's head had been almost entirely submerged in a huge headdress:

"Leontyne looked so awful in that headgear the asp had no choice but to bite her."

MRS. LYNDON JOHNSON congratulating Leontyne's mother on her daughter's great performance and hearing Mrs. Catherine Price tell how the opera star had called her a week ago and said:

"Mama, you've got to come up and help me." And so Mrs. Price and her husband James went up a week ahead to lend the moral support Leontyne thought she needed. "But tonight I wonder why," Mrs. Price told the First Lady.

THE PICTURE OF IRENE DUNNE in a reverse role for her, standing outside the new opera house with Mr. and Mrs. Spruille Braden and columnist Henry Taylor to watch the opera audience in their finery. The four had dinner together at "21" and decided to drive



IRENE DUNNE

by Lincoln Center to see how things looked. They sent their car and chauffeur around the block while they gaped. Then Taylor managed to get them into the opera house plaza and finally into the lobby where they ran into lots of friends.

Miss Dunne and Taylor were godmother and godfather to Mrs. Braden, the former Verbena Hebbard, when she was converted to

Catholicism 15 years ago. Henry says that Verbena spent a week at Lilly Dache's, getting a hat with a hole in the front, so she could be christened properly without getting her lid damp.

THE ROCKEFELLER brothers explaining to Mrs. Johnson how they divided up their interests. She spent the evening at the opera in



JACQUELINE KENNEDY

the company of John D. and Nelson and she had been greeted at the wildflower exhibit earlier that day by Laurance and David. At luncheon with the latter two Larry explained, "We brothers divide up our projects. We are the conservationists and Nelson and John are the music lovers."

ADELE SIMPSON at the White House

dinner for Philippine President and Mrs. Marcos telling about her cockeyed conversation with Sharman Douglas. It seems that Sharman, who is an official greeter of New York City, called Adele and said, "Mrs. Marcos is coming in to see you Saturday." To her surprise Mrs. Simpson replied, "I've been seeing her every day."

"No," said Sharman, "this is President Marcos' wife." "I know it," said Adele, "but I've been seeing her every day."

Finally Sharman explained this was Mrs. Marcos, wife of the President of the Philippines. Adele was talking about Wendy Marcus, whose wedding clothes she is in the process of making and who had been in with her mother, the wife of the president of Neiman-Marcus. Obviously, in the clothing business in New York, there's only one President Marcus. It may be spelled differently but it's pronounced the same.

WASHINGTON'S GOP CHAIRMAN, Carl Shipley, confiding at the Pat Munroes' party to launch John Sutherland's new book "Men of Waterloo" that the committee had just polled the Republicans in the Nation's Capital on who was their preferred candidate for president in 1968.

The results surprised him, said Carl, who thought Nixon would have a significant advantage over anyone else. Instead George Romney had one and one-half times more support than Nixon, and Ronald Reagan got less than half as much support as Nixon got.

THE ARCHIBALD ROOSEVELTS sending word that they will be back in Washington October first to stay. They are now packing their things in their London house which Lucky ran with beautiful perfection and which was so frequently the scene of what makes London swing. The Roosevelts mingled fascinating actors, writers, politicians and peers to produce some of the livelier and more amusing parties given in that swinging city.

Lucky had such know-how in entertaining visitors, not only in her own house but those that went to the ambassadorial residence, that Evangeline Bruce hates to see her leave. But Mrs. Nicholas Longworth is delighted that she will have her nephew and his wife back here.