

Just One of the Boys

Mitchell Party Hears High-Level Humor

By Dorothy McCardle

Attorney General John Mitchell stood up at a party Saturday night and deployed a couple of tired old locker room jokes to show that "Nixon men are not all squares."

Later at a party, Mitchell turned more serious on the same subject, suggesting that Nixon's imagemakers "are not doing a thing for the President" and that Nixon is "the most misunderstood and underestimated President."

His risqué stories were received somewhat icily by the 68 guests at the dinner that Rose Saul Zalles gave for the Mitchell's at the 1925 F Street Club.

But the adviser to the President managed to prove his point, which was, he said after the speech, that the Nixon administration is not all dead pan, dead serious. He suggested that he wants the people to know that he, other Nixon advisers and the President himself can all be one of the boys.

The speech came when he rose to toast his hostess. He said he had arrived an hour late for the 8 p.m. dinner be-

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cause of heavy air traffic over Atlanta where he and five other presidential advisers had been at a conference on education all day.

He glanced across the room at the table where his wife Martha was seated be-

tween Austrian Ambassador Karl Gruber and Sen. Robert Taft Jr.

"Dear, will you yield to me tonight?" he called to the talkative Martha.

"You can have one minute," Mrs. Mitchell conceded across the room.

"I'll need more than a minute," he said.

He explained that while he was delayed over Atlanta, he and the President's top advisers had exchanged some jokes.

Right there, his wife, who obviously knew what was coming, made a pistol of her fingers and aimed it at him. But he went right ahead with some old stories that have been gathering moss in smoke-filled stag gatherings for quite a few years. He told a red-blooded one about the couple who spent their honeymoon at a ski lodge. Then he launched into the details of a husband-and-wife chitchat about a mistress.

Later he identified his fellow jokester travelers from Atlanta as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Elliot Richardson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development George Romney, George P. Shultz, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and presidential counselors Robert H. Finch and Donald Rumsfeld.

Later at the party, Mitchell, who was the architect of the Nixon campaign for the Presidency, went into more detail about what he thinks the President's image problems are.

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He indicated that the new Democratic Secretary of the Treasury John Connally feels the same way.

"Connally called together a lot of Republican Senators the other day and told them

that they are not selling the President to the country," said Mitchell.

Martha Mitchell, although silent at toast time, had her own say after dinner as she talked to Mrs. Frank Corner, wife of the New Zealand ambassador and Mrs. Felix Schnyder, wife of the Swiss ambassador, about her latest problems.

"I just seem to have more trouble than anyone else I know," she said, looking

Martha: "I wonder if Sen. Fulbright could have had my son sent to fight near the Laotian border just to get even with me for the things I have said about him."

thinner and happy in an aqua evening gown with her golden hair piled high.

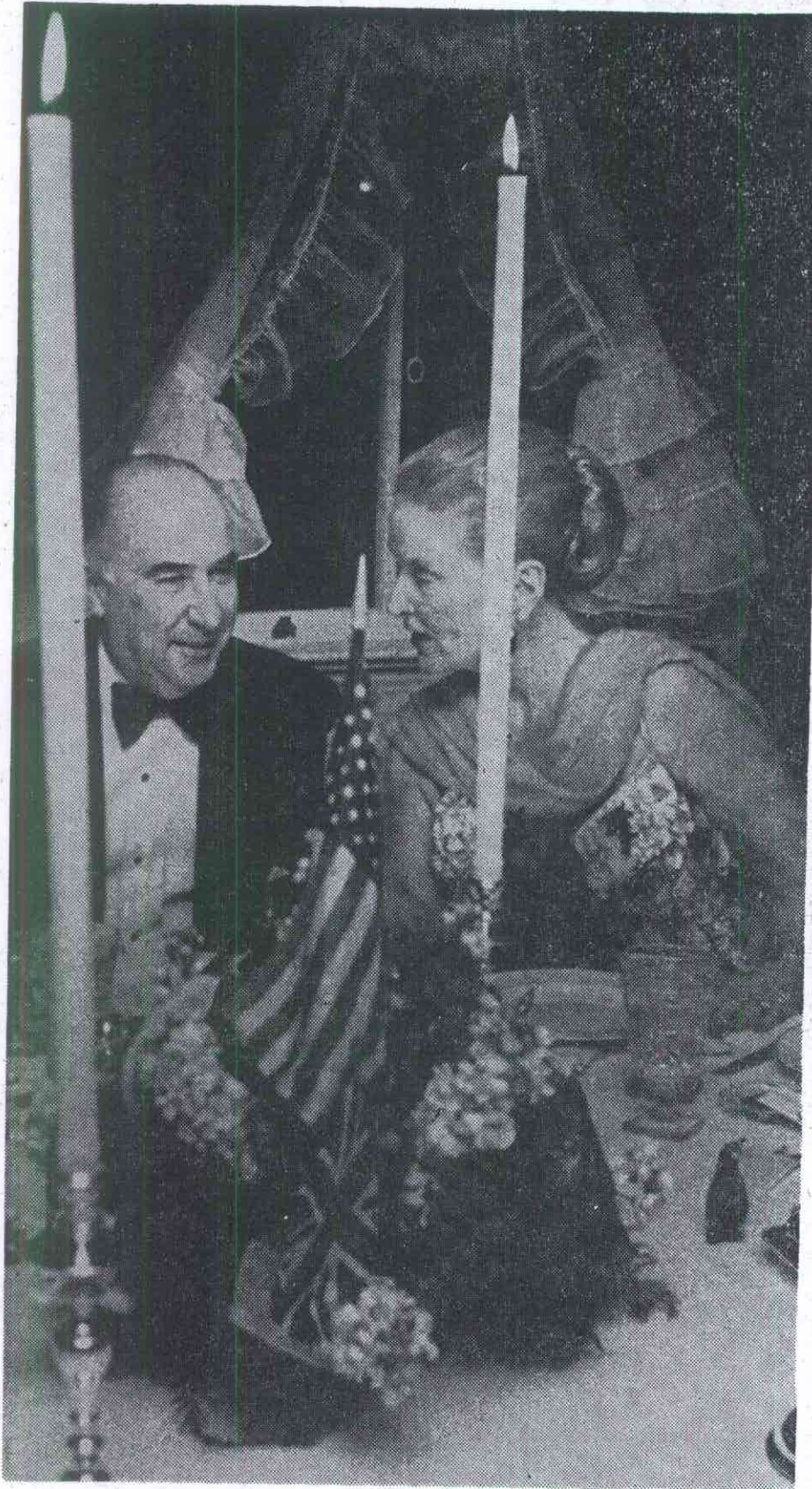
This time her troubles concern her son Clyde Jay Jennings, who is in Vietnam, and from whom she had received a letter a few hours earlier.

"At first I thought there was a blood stain on the envelope," she said.

"Then inside he wrote he had no way to clean the mud from the envelope. He said he had not had a bath for 10 days and that he is fighting near the Laotian border.

"Why would they send him there? I have friends who have sons nowhere near such danger spots. I wonder if Sen. Fulbright could have had my son sent there just to get I have said about him. I'm going to find out!"

Pat 3/8/71



By Harry Naltchayan—The Washington Post

Attorney General John Mitchell chats with his hostess, Rose Saul Zalles.