

11/2/73  
VIP

By Maxine Cheshire

The backstage and offstage behavior of two of the superstars here for the Inauguration—Bob Hope and Frank Sinatra—worried planners so much that an announcement was made at one rehearsal asking other entertainers to close ranks "like show business troopers" and not talk to the press about either man.

Both Hope and Sinatra were scheduled to appear at the American Music Concert at the Kennedy Center on Friday night for an audience which included President and Mrs. Nixon and Vice President and Mrs. Agnew.

Hope went on. But Sinatra never showed up, and no explanation was made, during or after the program.

To ticket holders, Hope may have looked "a little peeved" when he came onstage, but there was little to indicate that he was concealing a rage over the timetable for his monologue.

Behind the curtain, Hope became so angry at one point that he reduced the youthful stage manager, Scott Cafarelli, to tears. Hope's tirade was so harsh that a weeping Cafarelli told co-workers afterward: "I'm through in this business. I'll never work again."

Hope blamed Cafarelli and others for a split-second schedule that wasn't their fault. The Secret Service, according to one source involved, had timed everything

to coincide with entrances and exits by the President, Vice President and Cabinet members.

The cues had to be so strictly adhered to that singer Ray Stevens stopped in the middle of a song and announced: "The Secret Service had informed me that the Vice President is due to leave shortly. I'm not going to have him walking out in the middle of my act, so I'm going to stop now and let someone else take over."

He did.

Hope didn't appear until after the intermission and President Nixon and his family had already entered the box.

When Hope was introduced, the President rose with everyone else to give the 70-year-old comedian a standing ovation. The President, applauding all the while, was kept standing as the opening bars of "Thanks for the Memories" were played three times.

Hope didn't walk out until after his introducer quipped feebly: "I guess he's quit."

Once he launched into his monologue, Hope had trouble seeing his cue cards and kept calling for the lights to be turned up.

That would have been enough to annoy any performer, but then he got a two-minute warning signal that he should wind up for the next act, Vicki Carr. He ignored the cue and suddenly a transparent scrim

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## Backstage,

## Offstage,

## Onstage

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curtain was lowered behind him, the lights went down, his mike went dead and Vicki Carr came out and started singing.

A dazed Hope was trapped and couldn't exit until the scrim was raised again.

When he got backstage, he exploded. "Who the ---- do you think you are?" he yelled at one program coordinator.

Hope, who had been warned before going onstage, would not listen to entreaties from stage hands that they had had no choice except to obey the Secret Service's absolutely inflexible schedule.

After he was yanked into the wings, Hope was further enraged when Vicki Carr began adding a little comic dialogue to her singing repertoire.

"Get that broad off there!" he demanded and someone started signaling her to finish.

Miss Carr, confused, looked up to find Hope onstage again. She had thought her act was to be the finale. But Hope told the rest of his jokes, including one about the Redskins, and then came the finale.

Despite his outrage, Hope gave the audience, which had paid from \$20 to \$500 a ticket, their money's worth.

With Sinatra, however, the ticket holders didn't even get a stand-in.

He wasn't having any personal ego-problems with the show's organizers but was instead miffed because they refused to allow him to add one of his Las Vegas and Palm Springs buddies, comedian Pat Henry, to the program at the last minute.

Henry used to play "second banana" to Sinatra at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas before the singer's pugilistic exploits made him persona non grata at the casinos. Henry has been the opening act for a lot of famous singers in recent years, including Tom Jones, Dionne Warwick and Engelbert Humperdinck.

Sinatra had not submitted Henry's name for advance clearance by the Secret Service and the White House, which was passing on all acts.

Informed that Henry could not appear, Sinatra threatened, in his scheduled role as master of ceremonies, to bring him up from the audience anyway.

Told that this could not and would not be allowed, Sinatra refused to appear himself.