

# An Icy Reception

At the Desert Ball in Washington last week, President Nixon, shaking hands in a reception line, unexpectedly reached over and patted the wife of Ambassador Telephore Yaguibou of Upper Volta on the chest three times.

Questioned later, Mrs. Yaguibou, who was wearing a gray tie-dye dress and a quarter-sized topaz pendant, said, "He patted me and said, 'I like that.' I don't know what he was referring to. He must have meant my topaz or my dress."

Judging by the reception President Nixon received at the Desert Ball (which benefited drought-stricken African nations) his Operation Candor has turned into Operation Awkward.

Nixon, who accompanied Pat to the ball unexpectedly, received about the iciest reception accorded him since his presidency began. The President looked ashen.

When he mounted the stage to make his remarks and waited for a thunder clap of applause, it never came.

Nixon slipped out the side exit and, without ever saying good night to Pat, left her to sit all evening between Dr. James Check, president of Howard University, and David Parker, director of the Agency for International Development.

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**JAMES CHECK**  
Next to Pat

in New York city. son  
ager Anthony

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## Betty Bealer Washington

"There ought to be a law that keeps men from talking at benefit balls," said a guest at the SOS Ball which raised money for six famine-struck countries in Africa. President Nixon dropped by with his wife, who was honorary chairman of the benefit, and talked about how much need there was and how generous Americans are. Liberian Ambassador Peal made a long talk and Assistant Secretary of State David Newsom spoke.

The President left after saying he plans to go to Africa again during his three remaining years in the White House, which is another way of saying he doesn't expect to have to quit. But there was a little applause when he walked in it was embarrassing.