

13 Sep 72

Thanks for letting us see this.
We already had the first part,
which the SFChronicle carried,
but which didn't include the part
hinting at Martha Mitchell's
possible mental state. Have
made a note of this for our file.

Je

On Road - & Return *Post*
8/21/72
Running With
Sammy Davis

By Maxine Cheshire

MIAMI BEACH—Providing they promise to treat him right—and that includes spending \$4,000 on a private jet Gulfstream to fly him to Miami—entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. has agreed to star here this week as one of the "Celebrities for Nixon."

Davis, who has already declared himself one of the "Democrats for Nixon," is supposed to perform and also emcee the nomination rally at Marine Stadium on Tuesday night.

Because he is both black and Jewish, the Republicans want him here badly—badly enough to be willing to cater to his demands.

First there was the matter of his hotel accommodations.

"For a while, we didn't know where we were going to house President Nixon," said one harassed GOP co-ordinator here over the weekend. "Sammy wanted the 'best' presidential suite in town and it looked as if the only thing that was going to satisfy him was to have the President give up his reservations at the hotel."

He continued: "We're now on our third hotel. The Fontainebleu wasn't up to his standards. He has tentatively agreed to the Playboy because it has a penthouse. He's gotta have a penthouse."

That matter settled to his satisfaction, Davis then became displeased with arrangements for his transportation.

He kept the two top executives of MGM, the company for which he records, on the phone for hours at the Palm Bay Club Saturday night, trying to figure out a way to get him to Miami, others in the executives' party noted.

"Bill Lear had loaned us his own Lear jet for Sammy to use," explained Mike Curb, the 27-year-old president of MGM records, who was trying to finish a Palm Bay dinner of Danish lobster tails while taking calls from Davis.

As the meal began, Davis had phoned Curb's top executive, Michael Viner, to complain that he will not fly Lear jets, only Gulfstreams.

Curb listened to the problem and told Viner: "It will only cost about \$4,000. With all his musicians," ex-

Running With Sammy Davis Jr.

VIP, From B1

plained Viner. "Sammy doesn't fly with his musicians. They're white."

"Then tell him we'll make the musicians sit in the back of the plane," Curb said.

Eventually, Curb agreed to pay the \$4,000 to bring Davis and a private entourage of 10 here on a Gulfstream.

"He's worth it, I guess, and more," said Curb. "But I don't know why he couldn't just let us call up TWA and buy him a ticket for \$163. It's a nice flight. I took it myself."

Viner pointed out that Curb may be Davis' boss, but Davis is accustomed to a different lifestyle.

"Sammy will go into Gucci's and spend \$25,000 at a time," said Viner.

Viner is to this convention what actor George Murphy has been to past Republican conventions. The 28-year-old Viner is bringing in such stars as John Wayne and Jimmy Stewart to stage three entertainment extravaganzas.

Among those at the Saturday night dinner with Viner and Curb was conservative writer Victor Lasky. He is so "in" with the White House that he has a special "good guy" pass to identify him to security guards at the Doral as someone to be trusted and treated on a level just one step down from a salaried employee of the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

"You guys oughta have Sammy sing the Star-Spangled Banner," Lasky kept insisting to Viner and Curb. "Can't you just hear him: 'Scooba-doo-ba-doo, baby, oh-say-can-you-see, baby . . .'"

Others in the party included Kristin Forsberg, a niece of Martha Rountree and until one month ago Martha Mitchell's paid assistant and traveling companion.

Miss Forsberg, who went to work for "Celebrities for Nixon" when Mrs. Mitchell no longer needed her, slipped away from the table when Lasky turned the conversation to a subject she didn't care to discuss.

Lasky said that he had noticed liberals "stopped wearing their 'Free Martha' buttons after Eagleton."

He added: "Mental illness is no laughing matter."

A neighbor of the Mitchells at the Watergate, Lasky said he first became aware of Mrs. Mitchell's "increasingly nervous state" on the day Alabama Gov. George Wallace was shot.

"I was in Martha's apartment and she kept saying over and over: 'Somebody's going to shoot me . . . I just know somebody is going to kill me.'"

The party ended sedately, much to the disappointment of a few veteran Palm Bay Club members, who are still talking about another dinner there earlier last week when Viner and another group of friends tossed a fellow Republican, youth director Bob Podesta, fully clothed into the swimming pool.

On Leave

Rita de Santis, the German-born hairdresser who accompanied First Lady Pat Nixon to China has taken a three-month leave of absence from her regular job at Elizabeth Arden's.

Mrs. de Santis' other customers have been told she will be traveling on the campaign trail with Mrs. Nixon "until after the election" in November.