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Sirhan in a Trance, Abe Redux, RN Who?

✓ *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?* Carter staffers raised their eyebrows a couple of years ago during inaugural preparations when they saw an invitation addressed to Mr. and Mrs. **Richard Nixon**. Not to worry, they were relatives of a Carter administration staffer. "Most people here know, but it's pretty tough on him," says White House press aide **Beth Lumpkin** about her brother-in-law named **Richard Nixon**. "He gets lots of weird phone calls." This Nixon, a former Marquette University basketball star, is a Chicago businessman (with Sears, Roebuck and Co.) and was once an alderman and school board member in suburban Waukegan.

✓ *New Lincoln Log*. The popular version of history has it that **Abraham Lincoln** served one term in Congress and committed political suicide by opposing the Mexican War and advocating the emancipation of slaves. Then, phoenix-like, he rose to the presidency. Not so, says **Rep. Paul Findley**, the Republican from the Illinois district that sent



Lincoln to Congress in 1846. In *Lincoln: The Crucible of Congress*, a book Crown will publish this spring, Findley says Lincoln's fall and rise are exaggerated.

✓ *You Are Feeling Hostile, Very Hostile*. Was Robert Kennedy's killer, **Sirhan Sirhan**, programmed to kill by hypnosis? That's the theory offered by ex-FBI agent **Bill Turner** and co-author **Jonn Christian** in a new book titled *The Assassination of RFK: A Searching Look at the Conspiracy Coverup, 1968-1978*. Sirhan's prison



psychologist found him highly susceptible to hypnosis: sometimes the doctor had a hypnotized Sirhan swinging from his prison bars like a monkey. Turner says his book pinpoints a right-wing California preacher who was seen with Sirhan the day before the shooting in the Ambassador Hotel and may have been Sirhan's babysitter while the assassin operated in a trance. The preacher denies any connection with Sirhan, and the details are wonderfully

complicated and bizarre, just a conspiratorialist's cup of tea. In an unrelated civil trial, for example, the preacher called as a character witness a woman who turned out to be the sister of the man who tried to kill George Wallace.

✓ *Hello, Jimmy? It's My Uncle's Birthday and . . .* How many requests does the White House receive each day for a personal message from Jimmy Carter? About 80, according to **Eliska Hasek Coolidge**, veteran director of the office of presidential messages, whose job it is to weed out self-serving, criminal and commercial attempts to cash in on a signed message of goodwill from the chief executive.

✓ *But what will Mr. Spellman do?* Georgetown University's summer school and continuing education department will offer a day-long course of a very special nature—how to be a congressional wife. Spouses of newly elected solons should register pronto—the course begins Dec. 4. The second most important soldier in a congressman's army, his staff aide, will have to wait until January to take a similar course from Georgetown on how to be a swell Capitol Hill drone.