

Guests Whose Coming to Dinner...

...Is Many Times
 A Matter
 Of Money

By Jeanette Smyth

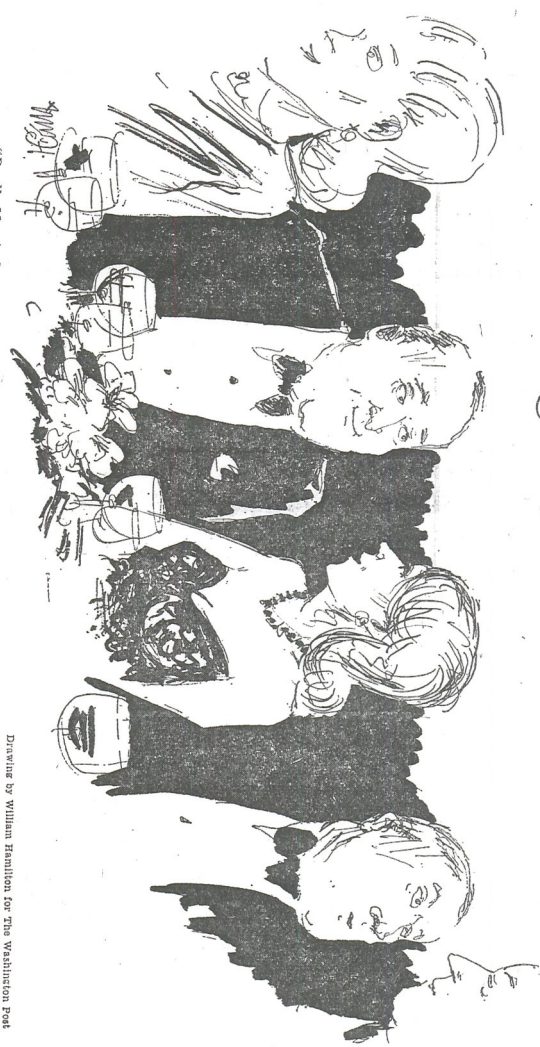
Hanging out at White House parties might be summed up by those required by politics and protocol to attend as a matter of course, but you get a drink before you go through the receiving line and that the President probably wishes he had, too. Or knowing how, at tea, to eat one of those delicious strawberry tarts, which are too big to stuff in your mouth and if bitten might squirt custard all over the White House linen napkin.

When you've gotten jaded enough to say, "Not another one? So soon?" there are ways to make attendance at White House teas a bit less painful.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and his predecessor William P. Rogers have attended more official functions there than anyone else in the Nixon administration. As of today, the score is Rogers 71, Kissinger 73, according to White House social secretary Lucy Winchaster.

Other frequent guests have been former Vice President Spiro Agnew, U.S. Chief Justice Warren Burger, Mrs. Winchaster said he forgets his credentials sometimes and is held up by guards at the gate), Senate Majority and Minority Leaders Mansfield and Scott, and the 17 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Henry Kissinger long ago struck on the voluptuous, dinner-partner method of surviving White House fish courses, entrees, salad, cheese and dessert courses and an eternity of formal toasts. For the first seven months of the first Nixon



"Ready Mr. Anderson, you have no idea how rare it is to meet someone who has both power and charm."

Drawing by William Hamilton for The Washington Post

administration he nagged Lucy Winchaster about his dinner partners.

"Henry would accost me at breakfast in the staff mess," Mrs. Winchaster recalled recently, "and say, 'Loozey! You seated me next to a 35-year-old crore last night?' Mrs. Winchaster would explain that protocol, not she dictated the arrangements, and besides, the crore was a distinguished and fascinating woman..."

"I don't give a damn about protocol," he'd say. "I'm a swinger! Bring out the beautiful spider! Finally I said, 'You old goat' and sat him next to Zsa Zsa Gabor

at the state dinner for President Park of Korea in San Francisco."

Once Mrs. Winchaster didn't know whether anybody on the guest list was bosomy enough for Kissinger, she gave instructions to the White House social aides who greet guests to scan the women as they arrived for what she called "the diverging feed back," she told Mrs. Winchaster, "the name so she could tell the lady's place-card next to Kissinger's."

Now that Kissinger is Secretary of State he'll sit next to the wife of the visiting foreign minister no

matter what she looks like.

Others have learned the technique of leaving as soon as is decently possible. President Nixon himself usually leaves directly after the after-dinner entertainment, Sen. George Allen (R-Vt.) once said, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) taught him the trick of sitting near the door "so that when they dim, the lights you can sneak out."

"I'm not much for small talk," the taciturn Mansfield said recently of White House dinners. "We go, stand in our assigned place, eat, and leave at the first

"The business of America is business," Calvin Coolidge, Jan. 17, 1925

By Dominic Rodcliffe

After a two-month lapse, the White House is back in the business of state dinners tonight with one for Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

It's easy to see why the Ceausescus of this world are invited and the Henry Kissingers, Mike Mansfields and Hugh Scotts brought in to greet them.

But it's not so perfectly clear why President and Mrs. Nixon "request the pleasure of the company" of others on a White House guest list.

With 200 million Americans to choose from, the chances are obviously slim that the Nixons would ever have asked most of us to break their bread at the 40 state dinners they have given since 1969.

But what about Mr. and Mrs. Glen E. Haydon, Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Dornann, Mr. and Mrs. Milledge A. Hart III, Mrs. Robert Perst, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Marquez, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barrick, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Johnson?

Or Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Ebner, Mr. and Mrs. Edward O. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene T. Barwick, Mr. and Mrs. Anne Meyer and Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Milbank Jr.?


Of Mr. and Mrs. John Curci, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Dreier, Mr. and Mrs. Edward V. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Perry Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Segel, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stuart and Dr. and Mrs. George Wise?

Or Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Marilyn Catron, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert W. Coleman, Mr. Brownie O. Curry Jr., Mr. and Mrs. William H. G. Fitzerald and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar F. Kaiser?

Household names they are not. Nixon friends, relatives and campaign contributors indeed they are. All were White House dinner guests this fall, and a number of them represent money—lots of it.

At the Sept. 18 party for Pakistan's Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, for instance, there were seven

See GUESTS, B3, Col. 1


*The Speaker and Mrs. Nixon
 request the pleasure of the company of
 Special Representative
 at home
 on Washington, December 4, 1973
 at 2:30 o'clock*

The Repeaters, by Protocol

LIST, From B1

available opportunity."

His stock of dinner table chat hasn't needed improvement over the years, he said wryly. "There are others there who are always willing to talk. I'm a good listener." He's danced "maybe once or twice" in all the years he's been going to White House dinners, and declares he's never seen anyone "even a little tipsy. People are on their good behavior," he said.

(Former White House

chief usher J. B. West writes in his memoir, "Upstairs at the White House," that "Despite the denials of such a possibility to the press, our staff even worked out instructions for detecting and removing overindulgent guests. We never had to carry them out, however.")

The night Rep. Gerald Ford (R-Mich.) was nominated to be Vice President at East Room ceremonies followed by a champagne "gala," Mansfield said he "was at home with my wife."

House Majority Leader Thomas "Tip" O'Neill thought the whole thing "was in terrible taste," and left early to go to Duke Zeibert's restaurant for dinner. There he eavesdropped on a bunch of drunks making ribald comments as they watched the ceremonies on the 10 o'clock news.

Jerry Ford, who as Vice President will be hanging out at the White House a lot, said he doesn't get jaded. "I enjoy everything I do," he said. "It's easy for me to do small talk. My na-

ture is one of friendliness and as a politician I've had enough exposures" to know how to do it.

White House guests wonder what their chances will be of speaking to the President, even of button-holing him to discuss some pet project. "I've seen people going through a receiving line take an abnormal amount of time," Ford said, "and it's embarrassing for everybody. The President can't be discourteous and say, 'Will you hurry along?'"

On such occasions, social

and Politics

12-4-73
wPost

aides step forward and smile meaningfully at talkative guests. Mrs. Nixon has been known to pull the hand she is shaking in the direction (away) she wants the guest to go.

(Others are shy and doubtful about meeting the First Family. Lucy Winchester recalls the time Gloria Guinness—the jet-setter once dubbed by Women's Wear Daily "The Ultimate Elegant"—called from Paris to ask what she should do in the receiving line.)

Mrs. Hugh Scott, wife of

the Senate Minority Leader, spent the Eisenhower years dying for a cigarette. "White House entertaining is less formal than it used to be," she said.

"You couldn't smoke, you couldn't drink, you couldn't move from room to room. It's less formal now, and I'm very grateful to Jackie Kennedy for fixing it so you can smoke."

As for what to wear to the White House—or anywhere—Mrs. Scott said she learned to wear comfortable shoes "years ago."

GUESTS, From B1

(Barwick, Hart, Johnson, Marquez, Meyer, Milbank and Sullivan) who had anted up a total of nearly \$475,000 in contributions to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign, according to reports filed with the General Accounting Office of Federal Elections and depositions taken in connectoin with a suit by Common Cause.

At the Sept. 27 dinner for New Zealand's Prime Minister Norman E. Kirk, there were seven (Curci, Dreier, Jones, Perry, Segel, Stuart and Wise) who came through with a total of more than \$412,880 in Nixon re-election funds.

At the Oct. 9 dinner for Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny, six others (Carter, Carton, Coleman, Currey, FitzGerald and Kaiser) had helped fatten Nixon campaign coffers by a total of more than \$188,000.

The names of heavy contributors like Chicago insurance tycoon W. Clement Stone, King Ranch owner Robert J. Kleberg Jr., Pepsi Cola board chairman Donald Kendall, auto magnate Henry Ford II, and Hewlett-Packard Co. board chairman David Packard, also had a

way of showing up on this year's guest lists. Their contributions, taken together, soar into the millions.

Like Stone (who gave \$2.1 million for the 1972 Nixon campaign and Max M. Fisher, chairman of the Fisher-New Center Co. of Detroit (who gave \$125,000), most of the bigger spenders are "repeaters," people invited back over the years for a second, third, even fourth time.

White House Social Secretary Lucy Winchester, whose office issues the coveted invitations, says that "fortunately" none of the big comntributor names were submitted by her.

"The Finance Committee (of the Committee to Reelect the President) sees to it that they are invited. I'm sent the finished product from the President," says to Mrs. Winchester.

The Finance Committee, itsself, had at least two non-household names on guest lists for the New Zealand and Pakistan dinners.

Paul Barrick of Springfield, Va., is current treasurer ("I guess that's why we were there," says Mrs. Barrick), the job once held by Hugh Sloan Jr., a key witness in senate Watergate

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hearings last spring.

And Stanley Ebner of Alexandria, now with the Office of Management and Budget, formerly worked for the committee. Both couples are “repeaters.”

Maintaining that “there are not that many repeaters, except for officials,” Mrs. Winchester says flatly that “the President arrives at who we invite.”

She says he personally selects the Cabinet officers, and that his choices are determined by business or other dealings going on between the United States and the guest country.

In June, at the dinner for Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, in addition to then-Secretary of State William R.

Rogers, Mr. Nixon’s Cabinet selections were Treasury Secretary George Shultz and Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz.

Butz had arranged the heroic-sized and controversial wheat sale to the Russians and Shultz had been in office during the period of ice-breaking moneymaking ventures between American capitalists and the Soviet government.

William Timmons and his White House congressional liaison staff recommend who on the Hill should be invited and, says Mrs. Winchester, “are most interested that their ‘clients’ will be treated well.”

Acting Chief of Protocol Marion H. Smoak and the

Office of Protocol advise on diplomats and usually make “huge suggestions.”

“And almost every guest list has Henry Ford or Nelson Rockefeller on it,” says Mrs. Winchester, sighing.

She says “everybody in the universe feels free to submit suggestions. Some countries have public relations firms (hired especially for a head of state’s U.S. visit) and they are really on you with recommended guest lists.”

Often an ambassador will call to say that if it’s “convenient, His Majesty would like to see so and so. They can’t be refused.”

Some people call the White House out of the blue to tell Mrs. Winchester that,

“I’ve just been in Timbuctu and met the Prime Minister,” or “the Prime Minister’s daughter and my daughter are college roommates—I’d like to be invited.”

The social secretary says that’s one way of getting on a White House guest list “because we don’t always know everything—though we pretend to.”

She keeps up with Mrs. Nixon’s friends and says that Rose Mary Woods, Mr. Nixon’s personal secretary, who is regarded by some observers as the real power behind White House guest lists, “keeps track of the President’s friends.”

In addition to dinner guests, another 100 are al-

ways asked to East Room entertainment later. Mrs. Winchester draws the line between the two groups of names "with an agonizing pencil."

Dinner invitations go out to "a few more than we think we'll get." By last Friday, acceptances for tonight's dinner were coming in at such "an alarming number—if everybody accepts, I think I'll fall on my letter knife," Mrs. Winchester said in mock despair.

"Regrets" without good reason (a death in the family or a previous engagement such as a speech) may mean banishment for ever from future lists.

Mrs. Robert Ferst of Atlanta attended the Pakistan dinner without her husband, chairman of the board of Scripto, after he sent "regrets" because of a previously scheduled meeting in London.

"You don't refuse a White House invitation if you can possibly help it," Mrs. Ferst said in a telephone interview last week. "I told Lucy Winchester I could be Kissinger's date, but he had two very attractive women on either side that night."

Mrs. Ferst made the list, she thinks, because she was one of six members on the President's Advisory Panel on South Asian Relief in 1971. Now a member of the State Department's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, she has been active in state and national Republican politics since 1952.

Though President Nixon didn't invent this bread-and-butter style of paying back campaign contributors, he has developed it further, perhaps, than his predecessors.

"Quite often at Lydon Johnson's dinners there were grass roots workers or you'd run into a county chairman," says a congressional wife. "I don't remember so many from big business."

Some guests seem to orbit around a President no matter who's in the Oval Office. At the Pakistan dinner, there was Henry O. Dormann of New York, once described in the Swedish press as the "world's luxury boy No. 1". In the mid 1960s, he claimed big-name support, from LBJ's White House on down, for his Library of Presidential Papers.

While no record exists to-

day of either the library's beginning or demise, Dormann reportedly raised \$800,000 toward the project though he never got any presidential papers.

His presence at the Bhutto dinner apparently was an outgrowth of friendship with both Mr. Nixon and the guest of honor, though "I would consider I would be closer to President Nixon than President Bhutto," he said.

Among the other 107 guests that night were 63 officials and their wives and five Nixon relatives (including Mrs. Nixon's second cousin Edward O. Sullivan, recently named non-salaried representative to the executive board of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris).

Eight others were retired or active board chairmen or vice chairmen, two were actors, one was a former Cabinet secretary under President Eisenhower, a couple were publishers and a couple were the evening's entertainers.

Then there were the Glen E. Haydons of Mason City, Iowa, non-household names if there ever were any.

Haydon, it turns out, is a disaster expert whom the State Department and United Nations have dispatched at times to such places as Peru, Biafra, Pakistan and India.

"He once worked for the Red Cross and evaluates what can be done in rescue operations after an earthquake, a tornado or a flood," according to his wife.

Though their invitation to the Pakistan dinner elevated them to "repeater" status (they were at the Gandhi dinner in 1971), it was received with the excitement of a "first."

"Oh, my, I was just thrilled," recalled Mrs. Haydon. She did not draw Henry Kissinger as a dinner partner. "But I sat where I could see him and Julie Eisenhower, and that was exciting," she said.

Registered independents who voted for Mr. Nixon, the Haydons were never so turned off by Watergate events as to even contemplate "regretting" a White House dinner.

"It leaves a person confused," Mrs. Haydon said by telephone last week, "but that wouldn't have kept us from going."