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W.P.S.

# Watercan

*By Dorothy McCardle*

While President and Mrs. Nixon were entertaining the shah and empress of Iran at a state dinner Tuesday night, reporters and photographers in the White House press wing were tossing about a trophy of the Watergate hearings.

The item had been picked up from the desk where former White House Special Assistant John D. Ehrlichman was testifying before the Ervin committee that morning. It was a spray can marked:

"Watergate Kit No. One."

The label on the can of sour smelling spray was marked "BS Repellant."

It was guaranteed to eliminate "exaggerated claims, political discussion, sales pitches and tall stories."

How the can got on Ehrlichman's table is a mystery. And whether Ehrlichman saw it is unknown, too.

Jim Palmer, Associated Press photographer, first noticed the can when members of the Senate committee filed out for a vote. He picked up the can, looked around for the perpetrator of the joke, showed it to the committee lawyers, who got a laugh out of it, and then pocketed it as one of the lighter touches of Watergate.