

# Nixon's U.N. Nominee

## John Alfred Scali

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18— In 1959, John Alfred Scali, a reporter for The Associated Press, was in Moscow covering the trip of Richard M. Nixon, who was Vice President then. During this trip Mr. Nixon had his famous "kitchen debate" with the Soviet Premier, Nikita S. Khrushchev, and the other day, a friend of

**Man in the News** Mr. Scali's recalled the event as he and millions of other Americans had seen it on television. "There was Vice President Nixon and Khrushchev in the center of the picture with John Scali on the edge of the picture. As the talk between Nixon and Khrushchev got more heated, you could see John squirming nearer the two men to take better notes until John ended up right between them with his picture in all the papers."

At the time, Mr. Scali was a little known diplomatic correspondent, but even then, his colleagues recognized his nose for news. Two years later he joined the American Broadcasting Company and his name and face became more widely recognized.

In April, 1971, Mr. Scali joined the Nixon Administration as a special consultant on foreign affairs and communications and last week, he was nominated by President Nixon to be the United States Representative to the United Nations.

Mr. Scali, 54 years old, is a Democrat, but his friends see no contradiction between his party affiliation and his devotion to the President.

### Belief in What Works

"John believes in the President's foreign policy. He sees foreign policy apart from domestic partisanship, said one journalist. He's from the old school that says politics stops at the water's edge."

To Mr. Scali there is no contradiction either. "I'm a pragmatist. I don't believe in labels. I specialize in the art of what works," he says.

While many newsmen with whom Mr. Scali has worked admire his ability and perseverance some regard him as arrogant and egotistical with an abrasive manner.

One reporter criticized him as "obnoxiously self-confident." His appointment was "a shock" to some officials of the Nixon Administration who say they have found it difficult to work with him.

Mr. Scali has accompanied the President on all his visits to foreign lands since he joined the Administration. He flew to China in advance of the President earlier this year and arranged for television coverage. He also traveled to the Soviet Union with the President in May.

Mr. Scali is regarded as a modish dresser. A friend said that he plays a "semi-wicked game of tennis, sneaky really," and that he loves good food.

Mr. Scali married the former Helen Glock in 1946. They are now separated.

According to friends, Mr. Scali's tough, intense character extends to almost every-



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*"I specialize in the art of what works."*

thing he does. In the fifties, when his three daughters—Donna, Paula, and Carla—were attending the Little Flower School in Washington, he coached a girls basketball team at the school.

### 'Wouldn't Let Them Lose'

"He wore a red sweater every time his team played, a friend said. "You wouldn't have believed him pacing the floor and strategizing with those little girls. That team beat everybody. Hell, he wouldn't let them lose."

But beneath the tough guy image is a sensitive man. One friend tells of an incident about 15 years ago when the friend was out of town and his daughter developed a kidney infection. Mr. Scali was called at 2 A.M. by the friend's wife. Mr. Scali went to the house, took the friend's sick girl to the hospital and then comforted the wife. "Although this goes against his tough guy image," said the friend, "he would do that for anybody."

Mr. Scali was born in Canton, Ohio, on April 27, 1918. His family later moved to Boston, where he grew up. In 1942 he received a bachelor's degree in journalism from Boston University.

Mr. Scali described his reaction to his new position when it was offered to him late last Thursday afternoon as "a magnificent surprise." He was considering returning to A.B.C. when the President offered him the position.

"I hope to provide a clear firm voice for the United States at the United Nations General Assembly," he said in discussing his new role.

"I see an opportunity to enhance the prestige of the United Nations and to make it a more effective organization in helping guard the peace," he said.

Asked for his opinion on those that say his appointment downgrades the importance of the United Nations in the Nixon Administration, Mr. Scali replied:

"That baffles me. If my 30 years of covering diplomacy and visiting 79 countries disqualifies me from representing this country at the U.N. then we better find a better yardstick."

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