

Sinatra Gets Standing Ovation at White House as

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WASHINGTON, April 17—Frank Sinatra—the “chairman of the board” of the music business—earned that title all over again Tuesday night at the White House at a state dinner for Premier Giulio Andreotti of Italy.

Though things have been a little tense in Mr. Sinatra's last few visits to Washington, he was all charm tonight, and his voice brought standing applause from more than 200 guests in the East Ballroom when he finished singing “Ole Man River.”

He sang for President and Mrs. Nixon and Premier Andreotti following dinner. It was Mr. Sinatra's first performance at the White House, according to Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary.

“When I was a small boy in New Jersey, I thought it was a great boot if I could get a glimpse of the mayor,” Mr. Sinatra said. “It's quite a boot to be here. I'm honored and I'm privileged.”

Speaking of the White House, Mr. Sinatra said:

“What a marvelous dignity has come down through the years. I'm proud of my country. I love my country. We all do. That's just it. I thank you, Mr. President, for inviting me to perform.”

He then sang, “The House I Live In,” a 30-year-old song with a patriotic theme that stresses, “All races and religions, that's America to me.”

The President, after listening to the popular songs that ranged from “Moonlight in Vermont” to “Fly Me to the Moon,” commented:

“Once in a while there is a moment when there is magic in this room, when a singer is able to move us and capture us all, and Frank

Sinatra has done that and we thank him.”

During the dinner, Mr. Sinatra sat with Mrs. David Eisenhower; Lieut. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Mrs. M. Dorland Doyle of New York; Mayor Frank Rizzo of Philadelphia; Mrs. Silvio O. Conte, wife of the Representative from Massachusetts; Mrs. Ralph W. Persico, wife of the President's tailor, and Robert Ducci, director general for political affairs in the Italian Foreign Office.

The guests at the dinner ate duckling, wild rice and artichokes.

The guest list included

more than 200 names including Vice President Agnew; Henry A. Kissinger, the President's National Security Adviser; cabinet members, union leaders, businessmen and members of Congress, many of them Italian-Americans.

Among them were Pat J. Christiano, vice president of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association of New York City; Arcy Degni, president of the Building Trades Council in Utica, N. Y.; Meade H. Esposito, chairman of the Brooklyn Democratic County Committee; Judge Domenick L. Gabrielli of the New York Court of Appeals in Bath, N. Y.; Secretary of State John

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He Sings at Dinner Honoring Premier Andreotti

P. Lomenzo of New York; Joseph Tonelli of the United Paperworkers International Union; Joseph Trerotola of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in New York, and Frank P. Tufaro of Hartsdale, N. Y.

Italian's Toast

In toasting the President, Premier Andreotti noted that at lunch today he had seen an Army sergeant playing a harp and it had reminded him of the prophet Isaiah who said “that you should beat your swords into plowshares.”

“President Nixon changes swords into violins and cellos, because we saw military men playing violins and cellos, so let me hold this as a symbol

for a better future in which we all will have better men and peace.”

With that he toasted the President and Mrs. Nixon and the American people.

The President routinely uses military bandmen to play at White House social functions. Tonight the strolling Army strings played at the dinner.

The dinner was part of a five-day state visit by Mr. Andreotti to the United States that began yesterday with a visit to Colonial Williamsburg, Va., and will end Thursday at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York at a dinner to be given by prominent Italian-Americans.

Mr. Sinatra, 57 years old, announced in 1971 that he was retiring from show business after three decades as a singer and actor. In the last few years he has become a friend of Vice President Agnew.

Mr. Sinatra's last two appearances in Washington have both been explosive. Last July he appeared before a House committee investigating alleged Mafia infiltration into horse racing. He angrily denounced the committee for allowing an earlier witness to engage in “character assassination” against him with only hearsay evidence.

In January, Mr. Sinatra returned for the inaugural of President Nixon. He was one of three co-chairmen of the entertainment program.

At an early morning breakfast for the Republican National Committee, Mr. Sinatra, who had failed to appear as master of ceremonies at one of the events, loudly and profanely cursed a columnist for The Washington Post.

The incident was said to have annoyed President Nixon. Peter J. Malatesta, an assistant to Vice President Agnew, said in February that the invitation to Mr. Sinatra to perform at the White House had been made before the incident.