

Betty Beale: Washington

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WASHINGTON — There's at least one person besides the Richard Nixon family who has 100 per cent faith in his integrity.

At a garden dinner party here honoring Herbert and Marge Klein, who will soon leave the White House circle for his new job with Metromedia, there were numerous toasts to the quiet, well-liked Herb.

Then suddenly Rose Mary Woods stood up. The close-mouthed, always discreet Rose, longtime secretary who now has the title of executive assistant, raised her glass.

"To the most honest man I have ever known," she said, speaking of her boss, the President of the United States. "And I have been with him for 22 years."

Everyone rose instantly and raised their glasses silently thinking about her statement. The ears of the patient out at Bethesda Naval Hospital must have warmed a little.

Mel Laird paid the highest tribute to Klein who was reportedly squeezed out of power by the "German mafia." He said Klein really understands the press and politics and he "understands better than anyone that most of the Congress wants to help the President."

The capable Laird who, as Nixon's new counselor, is trying to open up the closed avenues to the President, was referring, of course, to the running of the country, not to Watergate.

Smiling and saying "I'm big on culture," Mel who is on the board of the Wolf Trap center for the performing arts was proudly telling other guests how inner city kids are being bused out to the Virginia countryside theatre to watch rehearsals where congressional wives take care of all the expenses and logistics of feeding them lunch.

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A Dramatic Tribute To Nixon