★★ Thurs., Oct. 17, 1974

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Broccoli and Forgiveness

THE BIGGEST STORY of the television week is the emergence of Julie Nixon Eisenhower as an articulate, charming, open-faced and open-minded video personality. Everything the old man wasn't. It's a delight to watch her as the co-host of this week's Mike Douglas Show daily at 4 p.m. on Chan-



Julie Eisenhower

again.

Most of us in the press are weary of the Richard Nixon scandals and wish we could side-step them. Then, WHAM! Comedian Pat Henry is sampling Mrs. Eisenhower's chickenand-broccoli casserole and asks:

"Will this give me phlebitis?"

Mrs. Eisenhower laughed as heartily as the others. But there we are - into it all over

Another guest was William F. Buckley — and guess what his subject was! The pardon of Mrs. Eisenhower's pappy. Buckley is in favor of forgive-- but no one asked if it extended to Gore Vidal, Buckley's arch enemy.

MIKE DOUGLAS — whose general intelligence level appears to extend no further than two-part harmony — asked why he favored forgiveness. Buckley's ad-lib statement was a grammarian's delight compacted in one sentence:

"Whatever Mr. Nixon did was wrong, but there can be no scale so finely calibrated as to suggest that he has been less than overwhelmingly punished and under the circumstances a desire for supplementary punishment reflects one of two things — either an uncertainty as to his guilt, which is itself disquieting, or a sadistic concern to humiliate him beyoud the point which he has been humiliated — and I think both of these assignments should be excreted not indulged."

Who said television is stifling the English language? Not when Buckley is speaking and a microphone is alive.

She failed to answer the question, but she did observe that "We don't have any kind of perspective left in the entire Watergate issue — a perspective as to what happened, what decisions were made, where the mistakes were made. We haven't really weighed accomplishments, mistakes etcetera.

Buckley likened Mr. Nixon to Napoleon which seemed to me to be an unfortuante comparison all around — but he has just returned from St. Helena and appeared to feel the need to excrete some knowledge of the place.

"Talk about not giving \$800,000 to San Clemente!" exclaimed Buckley. "On St. Helena they took away one servant every day so that in the end he was practically washing his own dishes and cooking his own meals . . .'

Mrs. Eisenhower looked a little blank for the first time in that long 90-minute show. Maybe she was wondering how far a chicken-and-broccoli casserole could be stretched.

JNUSUAL TODAY: President Ford's appearance before the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice to answer questions regarding his pardon of Richard Nixon will be carried live on all networks from 7 a.m. until conclusion . . . "The Way It Was" — PBS's new sports show features Rocky Graziano and Sugar Ray Robinson reliving their 1952 middleweight championship bout (8 p.m., Channel 9) . . . "Sunshine" the rerun of last year's TV-movie based on the tape diary of a woman dying of cancer. The success of this show with young people prompted CBS to make a series out of the idea which is now high on the list of possible replacements in January. If so it'll be the only series idea where the star dies in the first episode. It will be a situation comedy. Tonight's two-hour show was no comedy. (9 p.m., Channel 5) . . . Walter Cronkite is Dick Cavett's guest (11:30 p.m., Channel 7).