

All for Pat



AP Wirephoto

PAT NIXON GAVE HER HUSBAND A KISS
He surprised the Nevada State Society's dinner

Nixon Drops In at Gala for His Wife

Washington

President Nixon paid a surprise visit to a dinner honoring his wife last night.

To delighted gasps from the audience, Mr. Nixon strode on stage during a dinner given by the Nevada State Society honoring Pat Nixon as an outstanding citizen from her home state.

Clad in a tuxedo and flashing a V for victory sign, the President was ebullient in praise of his wife and of two other women being honored by the Nevada group. Helen Delich Bentley, who is chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, and Eva Adams, former director of the U.S. Mint.

Before launching into praise of the role of women in American life, Mr. Nixon jokingly referred to the address he gave Wednesday night on the energy crisis facing the country.

"You'll have to excuse me for being late," he told the audience of about 700 persons. "I could only drive 50 miles an hour. And I have to get back to the White House and finish my work before they turn the lights off."

He praised the three women, including his wife, on the podium for their "spirit of character" and offered a warm tribute to Mrs. Nixon.

He recalled his tumultuous visit to Venezuela in 1958 during which his motorcade in Caracas was stoned by a mob. He said an aide traveling with him and his wife remarked to him later that Mrs. Nixon was the "coolest person in the car." Mr. Nixon said the aide told him "she was the bravest woman I ever saw in my life."

Mr. Nixon said his wife, who was born 60 years ago in Ely, Nev., had much the same spirit of his Quaker mother. And he recalled a visit with his mother in which she imparted to him the kind of determination which his own wife gives him today.

He said his mother, who had just had a serious operation, "got up on an elbow and said to me, 'Richard, don't you ever give up.' And I don't intend to give up," he said.

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