

VIP

Embassy Party for Frank Sinatra

By Maxine Cheshire

Jordanian Ambassador Abdullah Salah is planning "a ball" for Frank Sinatra while he is here for his concert at the Capital Center on April 24.

The invitations aren't out yet because everyone in the embassy has been kept busy with the visit of King Hussein this week.

The party, an aide says, will be the ambassador's way of showing Sinatra how much he enjoyed being included in the group of Washingtonians flown out to Las Vegas recently for the entertainer's opening night at Caesars Palace.

Sinatra and his friends, actress Eva Gabor and her husband, Frank Jameson have been especially nice to Ambassador Salah in recent months.

Since Jordan has no oil and is a poor relation in the Arab community the envoy himself was puzzled at first at the fuss over him. "Now he knows," an embassy source said last week. "Mr. Jameson is interested in the copper and phosphate rights in Jordan."

TOO LATE

Back in the 1930s Clara Boothe Luce was so curious about what went on in the all-male Gridiron Club din-

ners in Washington that she tried to disguise herself as a mustachioed Englishman and slip in.

That effort failed, despite the skills of one of New York's best theatrical costumers, who outfitted her in a man's wig and boy-size white tie and tails.

The late Mark Sullivan of The New York Herald Tribune was behind the prank and had agreed to pass her off as a visiting Fleet Street journalist if she could fool the doorman at the hotel.

But she was too feminine-looking to get away with the masquerade.

Now it is 40 years too late for the Gridiron to request the pleasure of Mrs. Luce's company at its annual affair here April 6.

She has turned the club down, protesting its "male chauvinist" policy of accepting female members.

86'D

When the sad-faced George P. A. Healy portrait of Abraham Lincoln was moved out of the State Dining Room last summer, the official explanation was that the transfer was made for "aesthetic reasons."

Not so, says a White House source involved in finding a new spot in the East Room for the picture.

President Nixon found the likeness of the Great Emancipator "too depressing" to look at while he was eating and ordered it out of his sight.