

## Betty Beale: Washington

# How to meet the powerful politicians

WASHINGTON — You want to meet the publically powerful in Washington? Yes, even Nancy and Henry Kissinger? Then become a State Department donor to the tune of \$1,000 or more. But you'll have to move fast.

Invitations to the party Secretary of State and Mrs. Kissinger will give on Oct. 4 have already gone out to the people who have given \$250 or more to furnish the department's diplomatic reception rooms. President and Mrs. Ford, Vice-President-designate and Mrs. Rockefeller and the entire cabinet have also been invited to this event, which will mark the unveiling of the renovated Thomas Jefferson Room. It has been transformed from mammoth marble modern to the enchanting charm of blue walls with white friezes and cornices in Jefferson's own style.

Contributors to the Americana project are so numerous, close to 2,000 have received the gold-crested engraved cards from the world's most sought-after couple. "But anyone contributing \$1,000 or more with credentials good enough to please the Secret Service can still get in," said Clement Conger, the acquisitive curator who has managed to attract \$15 million worth of furnishings to date. Seven donors have given \$100,000 each. Some have given objects worth even more.

In fact, guests will walk on the most valuable rug in government use, a \$125,000 Lanehr Kerman, displayed for the first time since it was donated by Mrs. Howard J. Lacy II of Indianapolis. It was first put in Kissinger's office because Nancy was mad about it, but it was simply too busy for his collection of way-out paintings. It portrays jungle animals, unusual in the Moslem world, and is described as one of the most important and distinguished rugs in Persian history.

Bob Hartmann came up with only one name when President Gerald Ford first asked him to suggest a choice for press secretary — that of Jerry terHorst. So when terHorst resigned at the end of a month, Bob wound up with some egg on his face. The second time around, he suggested five or six possibilities including one woman, but with the appointment of Ron Nessen he won't tell who the woman was.

Columnist terHorst has since written that Hartmann is "deputy President" of the U.S.A., an opinion that caused Bob to say, "What's he trying to do to me?" Says Hartmann, "The world is conditioned — at least the Washington world — to this game like Russians play on May Day on Lenin's mausoleum. Washington hasn't found out that this President isn't going to play it this way. There isn't going to be any pecking order except as it relates to any particular project that's going on."

Bob was giving his predictions about the inner sanctum sanctorum against the sound of Meyer Davis



Sen. George Aiken chats with Rep. Marga

dance rhythms at the HOPE ball. At another table sat a good-looking Nixon aide who was untouched by the crimes or the taint of Watergate. Did he think the former President should testify in the coming trials, he was asked. "Off the record?" he countered. "Off the record," came the assurance, "He sure as hell should testify," said the once-devoted Nixon worker.

"After the trial starts and the jury is sequestered I will talk," said Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski at the big farewell for retiring Sens. Sam Ervin, D-N.C., and George Aiken, R-Vt., and their wives. "And am I going to talk?" exclaimed the man who knows all and has kept a discreet silence up to now. Judge John Sirica, who was also at the Dale Millers' reception, figures the jury will be sequestered within two weeks of the start.

Henry Kissinger, the Elliot Richardsons and Linda Robb, minus Chuck who has begun working for the prestigious Edward Bennett Williams law firm, were among the celebrities present. Strangest combination was Rose Mary Woods greeting Sam Ervin whose Watergate committee she considered a travesty of justice.

Eighty-two-year-old Aiken is quitting after 34 years, but his wife Lola has plans. "I told George, 'If