

For story on book by Mary Gallagher, see this file, NYTimes, 28 Jun 69.

Report on Mrs. Onassis Gives New View of White House Role

WASHINGTON, July 6 (UPI)—When she was First Lady, Mrs. Aristotle Onassis expressed strong private feelings about drinking at White House parties, women reporters, Vaughn Meader, a comedian, and the use of the Presidential seal on cigarette packages, it was reported today.

In a copyrighted article for Knight Newspapers, Inc., Vera Glaser and Malvina Stephenson, reporters, quoted from what they said were private memorandums written by President Kennedy's wife while she was in the White House. They said her private papers presented a different picture of the First Lady than that portrayed in a forthcoming book by Mary Gallagher, her private secretary. They said Mrs. Gallagher's reporting "may be a deliberate hatchet job" on Mrs. Onassis. The first installment of Mrs. Gallagher's story was published recently by the Ladies' Home Journal magazine.

The reporters said the Gallagher book tried to show the First Lady as "vain, self-centered, extravagant and, at times, ill tempered." The memorandums do reveal human foibles, the reporters said, but on the whole, Mrs. Kennedy comes across "as witty and sophisticated with a sense of history and regard for the White House."

Feared Too Much Drinking

For example, she worried about too much drinking at White House parties.

"Liquor often flows too freely here," she was quoted as writing to her housekeeper, "and I find it as abhorrent to hear a reception turning into drunken laughter as I do to hear loud jazz crashing through the East Room."

"No one should ever get drunk in the White House, so will you see that at stag affairs and official receptions—especially the judiciary—liquor flows much more slowly."

Mr. Meader, whose best-selling record album spoofed the Kennedy family, was another

object of Mrs. Kennedy's ire. On Jan. 7, 1963, the morning after she and the President saw Mr. Meader in a television skit, she sent off a note to an aide saying:

"J.F.K. says it's okay if you call him [Meader], which is probably safer than writing, and say that Mrs. Kennedy finds it in appalling taste that he should make money out of a 5-year-old child."

Considers Him 'a Rat'

"As he knows, there has been no objection to the record—I don't give a damn what he does with it—but, if he has any shred of taste, he could do the same skit with the same child in bed and just omit calling them John and Caroline."

"Tell him I don't care what he says about us—but the fact that he dares mention my children's names to make himself an extra dollar, I don't like that—I would just like him to know that I consider him a rat as far as the children are concerned."

The First Lady was reported to have had sharp comments for the women of the White House press corps. She called them "harpies" and at one point suggested placing "a couple of aides with bayonets near them all through the next dinner."

Mrs. Kennedy was also quoted as having been disturbed when a cigarette company appeared to capitalize on the dignity of the White House.

"J.F.K. saw the Presidential seal on packages of L&M cigarettes," she wrote in a memorandum to an aide. "He was not pleased at all. Would you please put a stop to this at once. I smoke Salems myself and I think they have a heck of a nerve plastering the Presidential seal, which should be treated like the flag, all over their cigarettes."