

She'll Talk, but Not Like Martha

Washington

"YOU CAN'T compare Martha Mitchell and me. We're two totally different people."

Margaret (Marnie) Dunbar Kleindienst seems a little surprised that anyone would think of such a comparison now that her husband, Richard G. Kleindienst, has been nominated by President Nixon to be attorney general to succeed Martha Mitchell's husband, John.

"Would you like some coffee?" she asks the minute you enter her comfortable home in suburban McLean, Va., inquiring in the next breath, "Can you just zip this dress up for me?"

It is a beige wool on which she has pinned an unusual square cameo, a gift from

her mother. Her light brown hair is waved softly around her face. Her eyes sparkle.

Will she speak out like Martha Mitchell, whose telephone talkathons made her a national figure — whose opinions shocked a lot of Americans, while winning support of as many or more?

In an interview prior to her husband's nomination, Mrs. Kleindienst said firmly: "I certainly believe a Cabinet wife should speak out and express her own opinions."

She majored in American intellectual history at Radcliffe and has never stopped studying and reading.

She tried to put the New Left into perspective. The Vietnam war, in her opinion, created tensions and fears, unlike anything before it but

she feels this stage is passing and young people are now better able to cope with events of their day.

"I think children are afraid," she said. "They need to know they can really count on you. Dick has strong goals. He sets strict rules but our children know how much he loves them."

Sunday is the Kleindiensts' day off. The family — parents and children — attends the neighboring Episcopal church, then each has the day to himself, usually at home.

"Religion is important," Mrs. Kleindienst maintains. "It is a strong base for a family."

A hymnal stands next to a book on the life and art of the French painter, Cezanne, in the Kleindiensts' sunny den. It is a room with

a touch of Arizona — a huge red, black and gray Navajo rug on one wall, masculine black sofa and chair, a brightly striped loveseat, bookshelves, a fireplace.

She is planning her first trip to Europe to tour art galleries and museums with her eldest son, Alfred, 22, named and nicknamed **Kleinie** after his grandfather.

Kleinie is spending a year working with the U.S. mission in Geneva, then plans to return home for graduate work. He may study for the ministry.

Also away at school is Wallace (Wally), 20, a sophomore at Ohio Wesleyan. He and Anne (Kiki), 17, a senior at McLean's Langley High School, both are interested in law. The youngest child, Caroline (Carrie), 12, is in the seventh grade.

She comes from the Shaker Heights suburb of Cleveland. He was born in the little railroad town of Winslow, Ariz., Aug. 5, 1923.

They met after World War II when the quite broke ex-Army lieutenant was earning his law degree at Harvard law school and Marnie was doing graduate work at Radcliffe.

"He proposed to me, then he took it back," she laughed. "He couldn't afford marriage right then."

The minute he could, she gave up her graduate studies and they went west to Phoenix.

"She's the brightest person I've ever known," says her husband. "She reads incessantly. She's quite an expert in art. She got straight A's at Radcliffe but she's



MARNIE KLEINDIENST
Incessant reader

humble and self-effacing." Both she and her husband are Phi Beta Kappa.
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