

THE WASHINGTON POST

M2 Sunday, July 15, 1973

Eisenhowers' Long Sod Story

By Maxine Cheshire

The General Services Administration sodded the lawn and landscaped Julie and David Eisenhower's rented house in Bethesda, but the Secret Service refuses to accept the responsibility for ordering all the yard work that was done.

The Secret Service requested the planting of shrubbery for "security reasons" to screen parts of the property from view. They also had the GSA sod the backyard because it had been dug up to put in "conduits for surveillance equipment."

The dispute between the two government agencies involves authorization for sodding the front of the lot. A GSA spokesman says the sod was necessary to replace

VIP

grass damaged by Secret Service agents parking their cars on it.

A Secret Service spokesman says they never parked their cars on the grass.

The 125-foot frontage in question isn't even on the property, which the young Eisenhowers rent from presidential friend Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo.

It is part of the Montgomery County right-of-way, according to neighbors, who were annoyed to see grass put there and iron stakes driven into the ground at the road's edge. That was one of the few places along the narrow lane where cars could park if a driveway filled up with party traffic overflow.

The GSA is still preparing a breakdown on the costs of improvements to the Eisenhower-Rebozo house for official release.

Julie Eisenhower, meanwhile, is very sensitive on the subject. The only time she bristled during her recent birthday interview with wire service reporters Helen Thomas and Frances Lewine was when they asked her about the house Rebozo bought to lease to the young couple.

Julie's annoyance is apparent even in the tape recordings the two reporters made. "That's a private matter," she sniffed, and changed the subject.