

## An Exchange About Hard Hats

# A Suit-Maker's Criticism of Nixon

### New York

Newsweek magazine reported yesterday that there was one angry exchange during the White House dinner for 45 business leaders last Wednesday and it occurred when a New York City garment maker criticised President Nixon for receiving leaders of construction workers.

After the industrialist, Isidore Cohen, brought up the "hard hats," Newsweek reported, the President responded:

"I've seen students, professors, hard hats — all kinds of people. One of the hard hats told me that he had lost a son in Vietnam in February. He told me: 'Mr. President, if we had gone into Cambodia earlier we might have captured that bullet.' So don't you give me any crap that I cannot talk to the hard hats."

Sohen, president of a men's suit-making division of Rapid-American Corporation,

## Wilson Starts Brisk Campaign

### London

Prime Minister Harold Wilson, stung by sagging opinion poll ratings, took the offensive yesterday in the first of a series of American-style, meet-the-people tours.

"This is more whistle than stop," Wilson quipped as he and his wife, Mary swung into a half-day of rapid fire handshaking, street corner chatting and meeting local labor party candidates in his native Yorkshire.

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was reported to have held the floor for 12 minutes voicing disagreement with the President's policies.

"The President had said,

'Now I want you to be free to say whatever you want,' Newsweek quoted Cohen. "And I did exactly that. I was the only one who did."

The dinner guests were drawn heavily from the world of high finance and corporate giants. Cohen described himself as "The only blue shirt in the house" and called the meeting "a brainwashing affair," Newsweek said.

Cohen said he "knew the minute I came that my mission was not to sit and listen, but to say what I wanted about a lot of things."

Cohen said that in bringing up the construction workers, "I didn't take sides. I merely said I thought bringing the boys home would alleviate the rancor in the country, as represented by the violence on Wall street."

On May 8 construction

workers in New York's financial and City Hall areas waded into anti-war demonstrators and beat a number of them in the most serious outbreak of hostilities that had been simmering between the laborers and the generally young marchers.

Newsweek quoted an unnamed banker as saying that after reviewing for the dinner guests his decision on Cambodia, Mr. Nixon "seemed a man completely at peace with himself with that decision. He was confident."

Another dinner guest, head of a brokerage firm, commented: "It was a sales job pure and simple," according to the magazine.

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