

Gregarious Nominee for U.N. Post

George Herbert Walker Bush

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11—When the George Bush family arrived in Washington one snowy day in 1967, Barbara Bush had to dash out and buy extra sheets. Her husband had insisted that the workmen on the moving van spend the night with them.

Man
in the
News

The gesture was typical of the young Texas millionaire who was named by President Nixon today to be the next United States Representative to the United Nations. When he invites a friend home for a hamburger, they usually arrive with 20 others in tow.

To friends in search of bed as well as board, he generally says, "Come on; we've always got a sack at our house."

Tall and handsome, a noted host, a successful oilman, an avid athlete, George Herbert Walker Bush has had only limited experience in foreign affairs during his four years in the House of Representatives and none at all in diplomacy.

Yet one long-time acquaintance believes that Mr. Bush, if confirmed for the United Nations post, will be the perfect diplomat because he always says maybe when he means either yes or no.

While he is a lifelong Republican and basically conservative, many of his best friends are Democrats. Just this week he sent a letter to Representative George E. Brown Jr. of California, an ultra-liberal Democrat, fellow lame duck and paddleball opponent in the House gym.

Streak of the Yankee

"Warm regards, my friend," the letter began. "I know this is not the time to bring up unpleasant thoughts, but I'm very worried about my own personal income next year. How in the world can my family keep living at our existing standard without the paddleball earnings that you have made possible for me, my wife and my children. In any event, we'll try to muddle through!"

Mr. Bush is not a typical

Texas oil millionaire. Instead, he retains a strong streak of the Yankee conscience of his native Massachusetts, where he was born June 12, 1924. His father, Prescott Bush, served 10 years as a Republican Senator from Connecticut.

Young Bush attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and later Yale University, where he majored in economics, served as captain of the championship baseball team and won a Phi Beta Kappa key.

As an ensign during World War II he was a carrier pilot with the Third and Fifth Fleets and was shot down in combat near the Bonin Islands in the western Pacific. As he bailed out he spotted a submarine in the distance and began swimming toward it.

"Believe me," he recalls wryly, "I set a new record in free style."

A Leading Oil Protectionist

Later, after graduation from Yale, he helped build a successful offshore oil drilling business in Texas and, while he sold the business before coming to Congress, has been a leading oil protectionist on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Despite his conservative voting record on most issues, friends say he can "bleed with the best" for the downtrodden. Just this year he was a strong supporter of President Nixon's modified program of guaranteed income for the poor.

He has been a frequent critic, too, of the more right-wingers in the Republican party. The party's conservatism, he has said, "should be sensitive and dynamic, not scared and reactionary."

There was talk earlier this year, during his bid for a Senate seat, that victory by a big margin might lead to his selection as President Nixon's Vice-Presidential running mate in 1972. Instead, he lost the Senate seat.

An avid athlete, Mr. Bush exercises vigorously at home each morning, works out almost daily in the House gym, and plays tennis—usually on

the White House court—with White House aides.

In September he was the star player at a benefit match in Houston when he teamed up with Tony Roche, runner-up in the United States open tennis championship, to defeat John Newcombe, the Wimbledon Champion, and Dan Sandifer. Sportswriters praised his "crisp volleys and strong overhead."

But there was also the time

earlier this year when he and Postmaster General Winton M. Blount teamed up against two White House staffers and, leaping with almost ballet-like grace, collided in mid-court as the ball sailed by.

"Don't form and grace count for anything?" Mr. Bush asked dolefully when he viewed a photograph of the collision.

The answer was no. He and Mr. Blount had lost.

12/2/70

THE NEW YORK TIMES, 5



United Press International

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW U.N. ENVOY: Representative George Bush, left, Texas Republican who was named for post, with President Nixon and Ambassador Charles M. Yost, whom Mr. Bush will succeed, at the White House.