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White House Yule Receptions

By Dorothy McCardle

President and Mrs. Nixon will wind up a three-day series of receptions at the White House tonight for friends from across the country who supported Mr. Nixon in the 1972 presidential campaign and in past years.

The receptions began Tuesday night and each has been followed by a dinner at Blair House which President and Mrs. Nixon did not attend. Sixty guests attended each reception and dinner.

Host for the dinners last night and tonight is departing Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe who has been designated as the next ambassador to Italy.

Hosts for Tuesday night's dinner were Clark MacGregor, who headed the campaign to re-elect the President, and former Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans, who resigned the Cabinet post to head the finance committee that raised funds for Mr. Nixon.

Guests at the receptions were the first Nixon invitees privileged to see the White House Christmas decorations which went up on Monday.

Friday afternoon at 2:30, President and Mrs. Nixon will give another reception for about 1,000 people whom Mrs. Nixon designates as "members of the new American majority." These include representatives of labor and ethnics groups, and senior citizens—Democrats as well as Republicans—who helped re-elect the President.

These will be people "from all walks of life from all over the country." After the reception, they will walk across the street to the Ellipse and attend the official lighting of the National Christmas Tree.

Saturday night, President and Mrs. Nixon are giving a black-tie dinner for the Cabinet, past as well as present members. Among those expected to attend are former Attorney General and Mrs.

John Mitchell, who have been virtually invisible since Mrs. Mitchell persuaded her husband to leave politics.

Mrs. Mitchell threatened to leave her husband unless he got out of what she called the "dirty business of politics."

Mitchell is now back at his law firm in New York and Mrs. Mitchell has been busy decorating an apartment they have bought on Fifth Avenue.

Another former Cabinet member expected to attend the dinner is Walter J. Hickel, former Secretary of the Interior, whom President Nixon fired. Former Postmaster General Winton Blount, former Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin and former Secretary of the Treasury John B. Connally, all with their wives, will be there. Presidential assistant Henry Kissinger also is expected.

This will be the first large dinner at the White House since last June and the first large post-election celebration. Fred Waring, who used to play at the White House in the Eisenhower administration, will entertain.

Sunday morning, John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia, will conduct a pre-Christmas religious service at the White House. The Oberkirchen Children's Choir from Germany, now touring the United States, will sing Christmas carols. Top government officials and members of their families, including Vice President and Mrs. Agnew, will attend. The last church service at the White House was March 16.

There are numerous White House parties on the schedule for next week... for children of diplomats, Dec. 18, for the staff on Dec. 21, and for the press on Dec. 22.

Public candlelight tours of the White House are scheduled on the evenings of Dec. 28-29.