

Good Vibes



AP Wirephoto
MR. NIXON AND THE DAVISES
'As far uptown as I'm ever gonna get'

Sammy Plays The White House

Associated Press

Washington

"You go bananas," Sammy Davis Jr. said to describe the thrill of being star performer at "An Evening at the White House" and an overnight guest of the President.

The Harlem-born star said he called his mother in Philadelphia "and she said, bring me back some matches."

In more than 20 years as an entertainer, Davis said he'd "never done a tougher show." But the White House audience of 250, including the Nixons, the three Apollo 17 astronauts and a number of congressmen, was "beautiful . . . not a hostile vibe in the place."

Davis wound up his Saturday night special by announcing before the President that he was going to do a gala entertainment show in honor of all the returned Vietnam POWs and to raise money for an emergency fund for families of those who didn't make it home.

Mr. Nixon approved it as "an excellent"

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idea and said he's planning a homecoming POW party at the White House, too.

The President gave Davis rave notices, describing his hour-long East Room performance of hit songs and impersonations "a great evening" and "really remarkable in versatility and range."

Davis started out with

"Candy Man," the song that won him his first gold record with one million copies sold. "I ain't takin' no chances. I'm opening up with the heavyweights . . . This is as far uptown as I'm ever gonna get," he said.

Davis said he was one of only four American entertainers to appear before Britain's royal family. "But there is something about being asked to appear at the

White House," he said, "Corny as it sounds, it tops every thrill that a performer could ever have. It's the top cat saying he likes you . . . It's your own asking you."

For his 9 a.m. breakfast yesterday with the President, Davis said he ordered "what I always have: eggs and sausage, orange juice and coffee."

He let his wife, Altovise, choose between two prof-

fered White House bedrooms, but was disappointed that she chose the Queen's Room. "I would have preferred the Lincoln bedroom — for obvious reasons," he said.

Sammy was a big hit in the glittering East Room, getting rounds of applause. But he was probably more of a hit when he made an unexpected appearance in

the White House pantry to chat with waiters and butlers who were serving the late evening buffet.

They crowded around to chat and get autographs. Chef Henry Haller in his tall white hat laughingly emerged with an autograph — and an order from Sammy. "Now he wants a hamburger." The Chef, went off to get it for the hungry performer.