



Is David Eisenhower White House Bound?

WASHINGTON — Just as the Kennedys sought to pass the Presidency from brother to brother, President Nixon would now like to groom his son-in-law,

David Eisenhower, for the White House.

Intimates say the President regards David not only as an ideal son-in-law but as a political natural. In the President's view, David has an easy affability and a flair for politics that could take him far. With the Eisenhower name and grin, he could go all the way to the top.

Already, David seems to have picked up the political pragmatism of his father-in-law. For his thesis at Amherst, David analyzed Kevin Philips' book, "The Emerging Republican Majority," which advocates a Southern strategy.

Those who are acquainted with David's views say he agrees with the Southern strategy, not out of conviction so much as calculation. He agrees with Philips that a Republican majority must be recruited in the South and West.

David Defends Thurmond

For instance, young Eisenhower freely acknowledged that Senator Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., was an "arch segregationist . . . in the mold of the 1860s," yet didn't hesitate to defend Nixon's alliance with Thurmond at the 1968 GOP convention.

"Strom Thurmond is second to God with a large segment of the American voters," David explained in a letter last year to the Amherst school newspaper. "Now does that mean you disregard Strom Thurmond and watch the nomination go down the river?"

David also shares Nixon's view that the Supreme Court has been too permissive, has set dangerous precedents and, therefore, sorely needs reforming.

Intimates confide that David went through a rebellious period in high school. He chafed over the special behavior that was expected of President Eisenhower's grandson and rebelled against the Eisenhower military tradition. He even ran for president of his prep school's Teen Citizens for Johnson-Humphrey.

Later, he passed off this aberration as a lark and campaigned like a proper Republican for Barry Goldwater. Last summer, he worked for the Senate Judiciary Committee as an intern under the tutelage of Sen. Roman Hruska, R-Neb., the Senate's Mr. Conservative.

David acknowledges privately that his political beliefs aren't popular with most of his fellow students at Amherst, where his

picture has been pasted irreverently upon bathroom walls.

During the anti-war ferment that followed the U.S. move into Cambodia, David played softball on the White House lawn — a gesture that seemed to many students to be much like President Nixon's watching TV during an earlier peace mobilization.

Nixon Boosts David

Yet David has the same ingratiating, all-American quality that made so many people like Ike. Richard Nixon feels toward David, according to intimates, as if he were a son.

Some intimates say the President picked David to throw out the opening ball of the baseball season to put him in the political spotlight. But others say it was no more than the thoughtfulness of a father-in-law who knew how much David loves baseball.

Some intimates believe the President had a political motive in selecting David and Julie to represent him on United States Day at Japan's Expo 70. But others point out that the young Eisenhowers are in great demand for such events.

The Philippines' President Ferdinand Marcos sent a special cable to the White House, for example, requesting that David and Julie be sent as the U.S. representatives to the opening of a cultural center in Manila. California's Governor Ronald Reagan had already wangled the assignment, however, before the cable arrived.

Marcos' wife, Imelda, immediately dashed off a personal note to Mrs. Nixon, urging that David and Julie be allowed to attend President Marcos' inauguration.

Whatever President Nixon's motive may be for honoring his son-in-law, one thing is certain — the President is happily aware of David's political appeal.

Chinese Naval Threat

A confidential intelligence report warns that missile-bristling, Red Chinese patrol boats threaten the U.S. Seventh Fleet, now patrolling the Far East as a buffer between the Chinese mainland and America's island allies.

"The Chinese Communists have 10 guided missile patrol boats of the (Russian-designed) Osa Komar class," the document states. These are known to be armed with "Styx" missiles with an accuracy from 50 to 100 miles. A single "Styx" missile, fired by an Egyptian patrol boat, sank the Israeli destroyer Eilat in 1967.

The Chinese are also using 1964 Russian-built, Golf-class submarines for research work. This diesel sub is constructed to fire surface-to-surface missiles.