

On the Inside

By Vera Glaser and
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Washington

ENSIGN David Eisenhower, who is sometimes counted as a future U.S. President, is beginning to show a strong streak of independence.

The tall young fellow with the Huckleberry Finn smile recently marked his third wedding anniversary to President Nixon's daughter Julie.

David was on Christmas leave at the White House, which for him still holds memories of his beloved grandfather, the late President for whom he was named.

The direction David takes from here on out, he said, is sure to be influenced, not only by his personal experiences, but by the close-up view he has had of Nixon as a public official and of his father, John Eisenhower, as an author.

"They are slaves to their work, but can be independent in their approach," David said. "Writing and politics offer that. If I learned anything in the Navy or in summer jobs, it is that I want to be independent wherever I wind up."

David's family and friends have a shock in store if he follows his present bent to bypass law school for a career in journalism or writing. Some of them make a whipping boy of the press, and David recalled with a smile that he had promised Ike "in blood" to go to law school.



DWIGHT EISENHOWER
Promise "in blood"

"But if something big comes up, I may not," he asserted.

Besides independence, a writing career appeals to him for "the chance to make an impact after you are gone."

Still another reason is an urge, deeply shared by

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David's father, to protect Ike's image in history.

Young Eisenhower will be 24 this month. He is due to leave the Navy in a year, after an automatic promotion to lieutenant junior grade.

David feels frustrated that sea duty and Navy regulations will keep him off the stump this year. He expects Julie to shoulder a heavier burden in her father's re-election effort.

He envies brother-in-law, Ed Cox, husband of Nixon's elder daughter, Tricia, and a law student at Harvard, for his opportunity to campaign actively.

He finds it exhilarating to be self-supporting. His \$7200 in annual Navy pay and allowances, David said, "is not an awful lot, but it's mine, and I've earned it."

He financed his last two years at Amherst College with money left him by Ike. "Once I was married, that was the end of direct financial help from parents," David said.

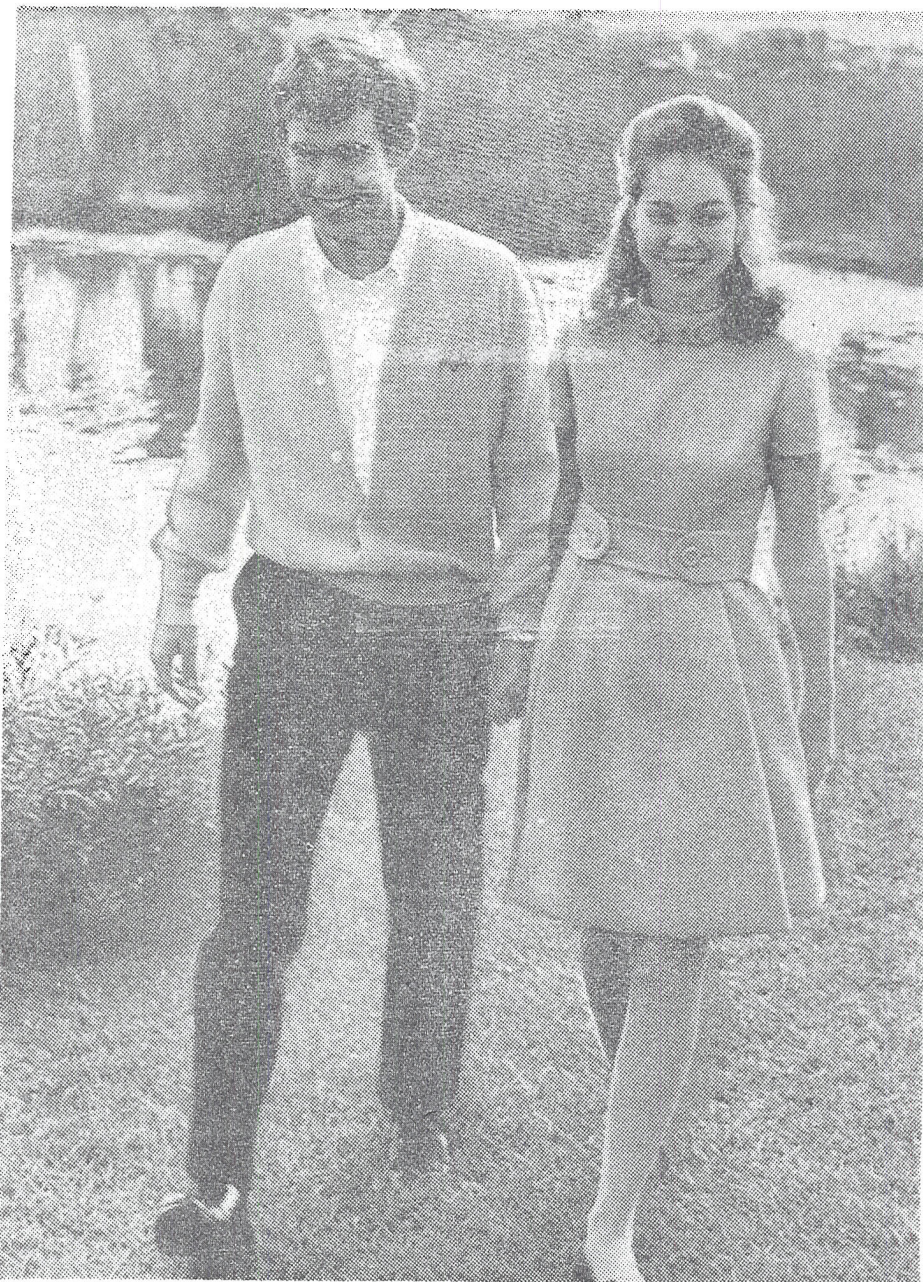
Despite David's public loyalty to the Nixon Administration, he doesn't kowtow to the President in private.

"I'm going through a stage in my life where my convictions aren't firm. You rethink things," he said.

In the Navy, he says he misses the free exchange of views across the Nixon family table, and the sense of involvement he feels when in Washington.

Talk of politics, women and work is barred in the wardroom of the missile cruiser Albany, where David is an intelligence and electronics operations officer.

David has not had a knock-down, drag-out argu-



David and Julie recently celebrated their third wedding anniversary. He plans to travel with her during the 1972 campaign and hopes to attend the Republican national convention in San Diego in August

ment with the President thus far, probably because "he is very receptive."

"I've never felt that a point of view I placed before him is taboo," he said. "If he were a rigid man, there might be bruised feelings."

Young Eisenhower continues to address his in-laws as "Mr. and Mrs. Nixon," although the First Lady has been coaxing him to call the President "Dad."

During the 1972 campaign, David expects to be at sea half the time, but will travel occasionally with Julie and hopes to get to the GOP nominating convention in San Diego. At political rallies he will

be required to wear civilian clothes and stay in the background.

President Nixon's morale these days is "very high," according to David.

The two times David saw Nixon's spirits sag was

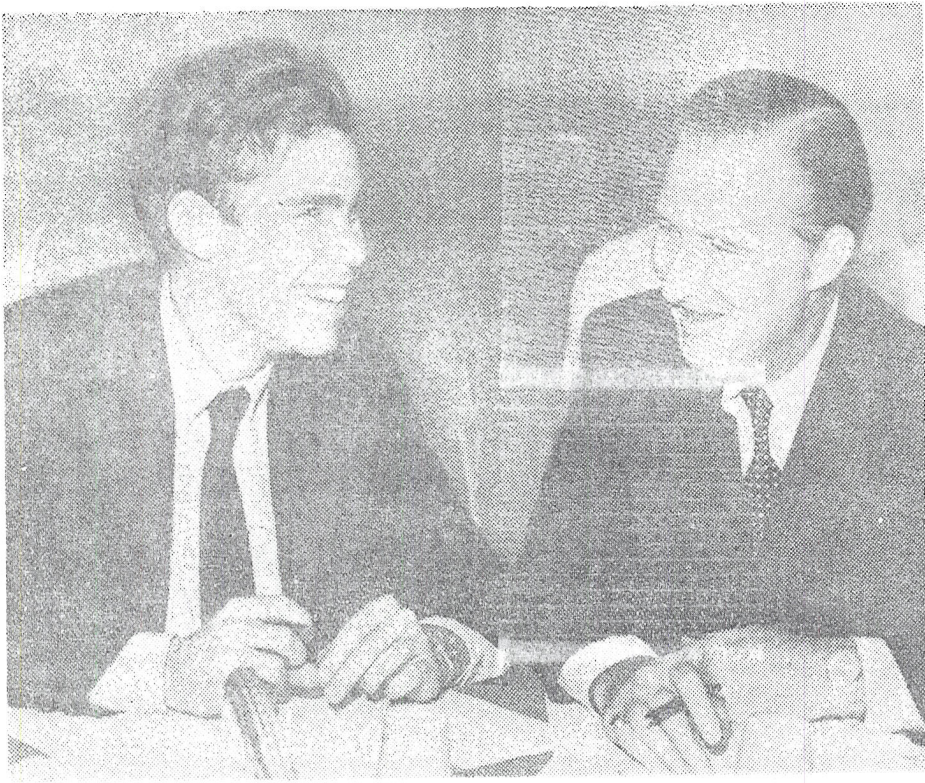
'I want to be independent'

during the Cambodian incursion and the incident at Kent State University, when four students were shot during a campus disturbance.

"That uncertainty, combined with the turmoil in the country, really depressed him," David recalled.

For the most part, Nixon seems to drop his official cares when with his family. He enjoys dreaming up surprises for them, like their recent flying trip to New York for dinner, theater and services at the church where David and Julie were married.

The minister, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, told the young couple he was glad their three wedded years had produced "no disaster" and urged them to "keep up the good work," David recalled, chuckling.



David with a former employer, Bob Short of the Washington Senators