

NIXON

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# Betty Beale: Washington

## Tricia — It Wasn't Pregnancy



**HUSBAND DAVID** is home and Julie Eisenhower is busy decorating her new home near the Burning Tree Club where it will be convenient for the President to stop in for a visit after a round of golf.

WASHINGTON — The effect of returning POWs on the American people has been noted at two VIP parties here in the past two weeks.

At the Gridiron Club's finale to their annual dinner skits, all those cynical, hard-nosed newsmen in the chorus stood up on the stage and sang, "It's time to return to an old fashioned flag waving."

And at the White House last Saturday night country music superstar Merle Haggard wound up his show with his patriotic hit, "When you are running down our country you are walking on the fightin' side of me," and for the first time he used a huge American flag as a backdrop. The Nixons were pleased, to say the least.

The President may be eating more chicken, fish and stews made from leftovers since he advised the nation against buying expensive meats, but the piece de resistance on the buffet that night was beef kabobs — little skewers of delectable beef chunks and mushrooms.

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During this party young White House guard-guides in their natty gray slacks and navy blue blazers with the Presidential seal on the breast pocket stood upstairs before the closed doors to the Nixon family's individual suites.

But the rest of the second floor was open to the 200 and some guests at the country music "Evening at the White House." After all, the President pointed out, "You help pay the rent."

Tricia Nixon was behind one of those closed doors, having returned from some tests at Georgetown University Hospital, but the cause of her indisposition was not pregnancy. "I can say that definitely," assured the First Lady's Press Secretary Helen Smith. Seems Tricia has not been feeling up to par since her bout with "the London flu."

Julie Eisenhower, with David home for good and nearby at all times, looked radiant in one of the new bare evening gowns. By Priscilla of Boston, who makes all her evening dresses, it had the narrowest pink shoulder straps leading to a little empire beaded top above a full pink chiffon skirt.

As for the house they will rent from Bebe Rebozo next to the famed Burning Tree Club, one woman observed to Julie, "Now when your Dad finishes playing golf he can drop in on you."

"I think that's the idea," replied Julie who said her mother's New York decorator, Sarah Doyle, is helping her fix up the house.

Observed David after 2½ years in the USN, "The Navy is so big if you have one bad boss you can become a bureaucratic casualty. I admire the men who make it to the top."

The gag being tossed around on the second floor that night was, "Have you seen the Sammy Davis bedroom?" The new label for the Queen's Bedroom with its pink flowered taffeta drapery at the window and on

the four poster double bed drew instant smiles.

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This was the first White House party following the departure of Mrs. Nixon's controversial press secretary, Connie Stuart. Her successor, Helen Smith, has been described variously by the press as "the most beautiful woman in the world."