

## PEOPLE

## 'Give Me Your Spirit'

By Dorothy McCardle

First Lady Pat Nixon was in a joking mood about the Watergate case yesterday.

When Mrs. Nixon welcomed the National MS Mother and Father of the Year at the White House, she was handed a copy of a Pennsylvania newspaper carrying several stories about the fight against multiple sclerosis.

Scanning the front page of "Grit," a weekly published in Williamsport, Pa., she quipped: "Well, I don't see Watergate on the front page! Something's wrong here!"

Mrs. Nixon congratulated Mary E. Ruffner, of Port Arthur, Tex., as MS Mother of the Year, and H. Ridge Canaday, of Norfolk, Va., MS Father of the Year, on their

own grit in fighting multiple sclerosis.

"Give me your spirit," she said to them, both MS victims, "because we can win anything with that spirit you both have."

Later in the afternoon, Mrs. Nixon gave a tea for Mrs. William R. Tolbert Jr., wife of the president of Liberia.

As the First Lady led her guests upstairs to inspect the second floor private presidential apartments, someone commented: "I smell smoke—like burning logs."

Despite yesterday's high of 85 degrees, there was indeed, the smell of burning logs. A fire blazed in the fireplace of the study adjoining the Lincoln Bedroom.