

Merry-Go-Round

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The President's Interest in Jewelry



—Jack Anderson

PRESIDENT NIXON deals heavily in jewelry, which used to be catalogued for him by the distinguished Washington jewelers, Shaw and Dussinger.

In a report in our column that the jewelers kept "thick books" listing all the First Family's valuable gems brought Pat Nixon's cousin flying to Washington to haul off the records to a safer hiding place.

Sources close to the First Family say that the President "does a lot of wheeling and dealing in jewelry." His close crony, Bebe Rebozo, was involved in the purchase of at least one \$5650 earring set for the First Lady. The Senate Watergate Committee has charged that Rebozo paid for the earrings, in part, with \$100 bills.

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WE PUBLISHED the first news of the Nixon jewelry collection on February 11. Photographs of the individual pieces were kept in "thick books"; we wrote "presumably so they can be circulated to police if the gems are lost or stolen."

On the same day our column appeared, Edward D. Sullivan telephoned the jewelers from New York City and spoke to a partner, John Shaw. Sullivan said he was authorized by the Nixon family to pick up the books at once.

"In a matter of hours, he strode into the store, demanded the records and walked off with them. He came right down and

picked up the books," recalled William Dussinger. Neither partner "has seen or heard from him since."

We have now identified Sullivan as Pat Nixon's cousin. He is also a New York insurance broker who reportedly insures all of the Nixon jewels. Except for confirming he is the First Lady's cousin and an insurance agent, Sullivan refused to comment on our findings.

Richard Nixon has liked to adorn his womenfolk with jewelry, say our sources, ever since he presented Pat with an engagement ring in a May Day basket on May 1, 1940.

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AMERICA'S most disaffected and disadvantaged veterans, the men who fought in Vietnam, are receiving orders to report back to duty just as they are beginning to adjust to civilian life. With the end of the draft, the Army reserves are no longer attracting large numbers. The Army has been compelled, therefore, to tap Vietnam veterans to conduct training sessions.

The National Retail Merchants Association has fired off a memo to all its members urging them to "act promptly" with letters to their senators against the Consumer Protection Agency. But not all retail merchants agree with the association. As Montgomery Ward's president Edward Donnell put it: "For business to always oppose whatever consumers propose, strains the credibility of our public statements that for us the consumer always comes first."

KRONZ HAYE