

## Scenes: Something for Everybody

**A** LOT of people look upon second inaugurations much as they do upon second weddings: they are really not worth the trouble. In spite of such sentiment, or perhaps because of it, the 1973 Inaugural Committee staged a three-day, \$4,000,000 extravaganza to mark what the President's admirer, Bob Hope, referred to as "the time when Richard I becomes Richard II."

It was a somber noon at the great plaza of the Capitol—the sky heavy with dull gray clouds, the flags at half-mast in honor of the late President Truman—when Richard Nixon appeared in front of the building to repeat his oath, using the same two family Bibles as last time and in fact wearing the same clothes and the same expression. Then came the dull thud of cannon firing 21 salutes, the strains of the Marine Band playing *Hail to the Chief* and, far away

and faintly, the sea sounds of chanted protest.

The second Nixon Inaugural was the most ambitious in Washington's history of events, official and social. Inaugural planners worried a bit about an embarrassing letdown, so they worked on a hard sell in the hawking of commemorative medallions, parade tickets, concert seats and ball boxes. The effort paid off; the undertaking is expected to wind up comfortably in the black, leaving a tidy surplus to be turned over to charities selected by the Nixons.

On hand to mix it up with other lucky recipients of genuine invitations (some 200,000 souvenir invitations "suitable for framing" but otherwise useless had been mailed out) were 200 relatives of the Nixons, many of whom had never before met their famous kin. To handle their needs, a special task

force was set up at the Watergate, with Navy enlisted men manning the telephones and Army officers planning the logistics. Six red-white-and-blue buses marked **FIRST FAMILY** transported the assembled relations around town.

The President had set as the theme of the Inauguration festivities "the Spirit of '76," pointing to the bicentennial that will wind up his second term. The theme, however, proved to be a bit vague to be translated into specifics. The best the organizers could do was to provide dresses of the Revolutionary period for the hostesses at candlelight dinners at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Then somebody came up with the idea of a marching band with a symbolic number of players—1,976. So every high school in suburban Virginia's Fairfax County produced young musicians to form a band that stretched for two blocks.

**Bargain.** The President himself pursued a course of wisdom by staying out of sight until Friday night. Then he joined Pat and the rest of the family for a round of concert hopping, ending at the Kennedy Center, where the Philadelphia Orchestra played the *1812 Overture*, sans cannon.

Following tradition, the big show opened Thursday afternoon at the Smithsonian Museum with a reception honoring Vice President and Mrs. Spiro T. Agnew. Invited guests (at \$10 a head, this was one of the best bargains of the Inauguration) were met at the door by security guards, who peeked into the handbags and briefcases of the Republican faithful. The guests then squeezed themselves into a line on the off chance that they might get to shake a vice-presidential hand.

Later Thursday evening, while the President was still en route from Key Biscayne back to Washington, the first glamour event of the week, a "Salute to the States," opened at the Kennedy Center. It was aimed at the nation's Governors—40 of whom showed up. To accommodate the almost 5,000 other guests—including Pat Nixon, daughter Julie, and Mamie Eisenhower—a 2½-hr. show ran simultaneously in two separate halls. Eminent emcees Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope scrambled on and off stages in an admirable attempt to provide equal time to all. Breaking out of his retirement once more, Sinatra

TRICIA DANCING PAST PARENTS

NIXON AND GUEST AT INAUGURAL BALL



IN THE PRESIDENTIAL BOX IN KENNEDY CENTER WITH MAMIE EISENHOWER



*Clockwise from top left: Julie Nixon Eisenhower and Pat Nixon acknowledging cheers before Salute to the States concert at Kennedy Center; President Nixon at work on his Inaugural Address; guests crowd around punchbowl at Smithsonian Museum of History and Technology reception in honor of Vice President Agnew. Center: the official Inaugural medal.*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PETER BORSARI—CAMERA 5; DIRCK HALSTEAD; KEN REGAN—CAMERA 5.