

Washington Post And White House Dispute 'Exclusion'

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 —

The White House and the Washington Post were arguing today about the significance of a Post reporter's being excluded from three social events during the weekend.

The Post, in a article in its "style" section this morning, implied that the exclusion of Dorothy VcCardle, a "style" reporter who has covered White House social activities extensively in the past, from the weekend's goings-on at the White

House was purposeful and aimed quite specifically at The Post.

The newspaper has not been popular at the White House since the election campaign, during which there were frequent front-page articles in it about the Watergate incident and alleged political espionage by the Republicans.

In the course of lively questioning by reporters, the White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, charged The Post with "attempting to make a cause celebre' out of the fact that Mrs. McCardle was not included in the press pool at any of the weekend's social events — a Friday-night reception, a dinner Saturday evening, and a religious ervice on Sunday.

He denied that the decision

not to include her, a decision that he said was hiw own, had any connection with White House displeasure at The Post, saying, "We have ore things to do than to carry on a vendetta against any newspaper."

He said that neigher The Post nor any other newspaper had "any prerogative to serve on all pools," although The Post indicated that it had been included in such pools in the past.

A "pool" of reporters is a small group who alone are admitted to events at which space is limited and who later share their information with others.

Mr. Ziegler said that he intended to have the pools for White House social events operate on a "fairer and broader basis" than in the past, observing, "We don't have a local

press in Washington with special privileges."

In response to a question, he acknowledged that The Washington Star had been represented in the pool for all three of the weekend's events.

Benjamin Bradlee, the executive editor of The Post, said this afternoon in a telephone interview that, in the past, The Post had generally been included in pool coverage of White House social events in Washington because it is a "hometown paper" here.

A reporter for the New York Times, Seymour M. Hersh, who had been informed on Friday that he would be in the pool to cover the Saturday-night dinner for past and present Cabinet members was called Saturday afternoon and told he would not be in the pool.