

SFChronicle

SFExaminer

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Betty Beale: Washington

WASHINGTON — At a small dinner party attended by VIP members of the media and a former presidential assistant of the Johnson administration, Julie and David Eisenhower talked freely on every subject including Watergate.

The two young people leveled so completely and so honestly with their older and more experienced companions, the latter were both favorably surprised and impressed.

Someone raised the question (was it Julie?): "What would you do if you were the President?" Jack Valenti, who knows from first-hand experience what a combination hot seat and goldfish bowl the White House is, gave the question serious thought, then replied, "I would hold a press conference right away and say, 'Gentlemen, I will take your questions,' then I would hold another next week and another the week after until it had all come out." As one would expect, the media men present agreed.

But, astonishingly, so did Julie Eisenhower. She feels that the longer the suspicions and accusations go on the worse it will get. David was the only person in the company who disagreed. He thought a press conference would be fruitless since it would simply mean a repetition of formal denials by the President.

Jack Valenti knew the press would be tough on Nixon but the television reporters boring in on the President of the United States, he pointed out, would probably rebound to his favor in the eyes of the American public.

Julie was "cute, lively and appealing, and your heart went out to her because of her concern for her dad," said one of the women present.

David was more articulate and talked more than she did. He was very perceptive, intelligent and not at all the square the newspapers make him out to be. When the talk turned to movies, David said he thought they were better today than they used to be and he liked "Klute," the film that won an Academy Award for Jane Fonda.

Julie said she usually picks the movies her mother and father see in the White House theater, but once she was out of town and Bebe Rebozo made the selection. But Bebe, it seems, didn't understand the rating system and picked an "R" film for the Nixons thinking it meant "Regular." Julie, who reminds you of a young Jennifer Jones, was deliciously amused. And, who knows, maybe the Nixons were too?

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Hardly a day passes that a new story doesn't emerge on wiretapping, recordings and such. Tex McCrary has just recalled the time the then Secretary of the Treasury Bob Anderson showed him what the underside of his desk looked like. It was "honeycombed with holes" for disc and wire recordings allegedly made by Henry Morgenthau when he was Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of the Treasury.

Morgenthau reportedly recorded every conversation in every conference — some secretly — and when

What Julie And David Would Do



NIXON PAL Bebe Rebozo misunderstood the movie ratings.