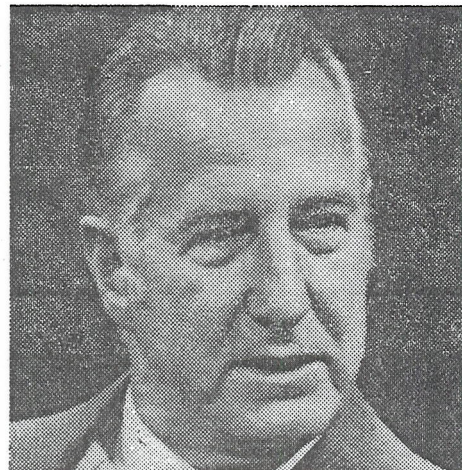


Betty Beale: Washington



Frank Sinatra with Judy Agnew



Spiro Agnew

Agnew shock waves

WASHINGTON—To think that my colleagues used to complain that the Nixon administration was dull!

But who would have thought that White House clerks would be taking Spiro Agnew's pictures down from the walls of the West Wing offices only 11 months after his re-election?

Could anyone have dreamed that before the year was out Richard Nixon would be giving a joyous party in the executive mansion to smilingly announce a new vice president of the United States?

Certainly no one suspected, least of all the Senate wives who moved their party for Judy Agnew from Oct. 16 to Oct. 9—the first party that the Senate Wives Club had ever given for a Vice President's wife—that she would no longer be Second Lady on the 16th.

And when I asked after this unfortunate outburst during Inauguration festivities, whether Frank Sinatra might not be a handicap to Ted Agnew's presidential aspirations, little did I imagine that Frank might become Agnew's greatest asset before the year was out.

The change of fortunes brought on by the Agnew tragedy on top of the Watergate revelations boggles the mind of even the most avid newsman.

Frank Sinatra will be in Washington in the next three weeks, says his friend and Agnew aide Peter Malatesta, and Washington will be waiting to see what develops. Just about everybody in town seems to think that Frank will come through financially for his friend who may be barred from the practice of law. Peter,

who brought Sinatra and Agnew together for the first time in a golf game, revealed that the singer and his star guest at Palm Springs, where Frank renamed his guest house "Agnew House," have talked on the phone several times.

As for the house Sinatra leased here with Malatesta to have a Washington base near his favorite presidential candidate for 1976, he and Peter will continue to co-lease it, said the latter, until it is sold. Their lease (at \$2000 a month) is up in December but if it hasn't changed title by then they will lease it on a month-to-month basis. "Frank intends to come back and forth to Washington and will continue to stay here," said Peter who entertained this past week for Eva Gabor and her fifth husband Frank Jamieson who stopped here en route to their honeymoon in Paris.

"It was a staggering coincidence. God smiled on us so we could do something for her before the ax fell," said Maryon Allen, wife of Sen. James Allen (D-Ala.), speaking of the Senate wives luncheon for Judy Agnew. "I think she won everybody's heart the very first day." She praised Mrs. Agnew for having "leadership qualities in a gentle way."

It was Mrs. George Aiken (R-Vt.) who first suggested entertaining the V.P.'s wife because they all liked her so much. The only reason they didn't have it sooner was because the Senate Wives Club lost their Capitol Hill rooms during the reshuffling of offices and didn't regain them until after the summer recess. "We were supposed to have it on Tuesday, Oct. 16," said Mrs. Allen, "but the Senate was going to recess on the 13th for three weeks, so we put it on the 9th instead. It was



an unbelievable coincidence but everybody thinks I'm a witch now."

She doesn't believe that Judy knew her husband was telling the President that same day he was resigning. Because of the way Judy acted and because she discussed their next meeting, Mrs. Allen thinks she had no notion about the startling announcement to hit the world Oct. 10. The irony of it was the Senate wives gave her a jade pendant set with Chinese characters written in gold. Their meaning was — "Good luck and happiness."

Fleur Cowles came to town before her art show in New York and her friend from London days, Iranian Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi, gave a dinner and dance for her that looked like an advertisement for the new *Celebrity Register*. Among the 120 guests were Rose Mary Woods, the only person who knew all the names the President was considering for his new V.P. Rose is also the only person besides Bebe Rebozo who knew about the \$100,000 contribution from Howard Hughes, and she reaffirmed her last summer's toast to her boss as "the most honest man I have ever known." Did she remember it? "That's right and it still goes," she replied firmly.

Joan Fontaine and Paulette Goddard were chatting up a storm, Joan in an off-the-shoulder black taffeta and Paulette in high-necked white with a diamond and ruby necklace. Cracked another woman observing la Goddard, "She hasn't heard that bras are back."

Margaret Truman Daniels and Fleur gave each other a big hug. Sharman Douglas, once famed as an intimate

THE PRESIDENT'S private secretary, Rose Mary Woods, left, chats with Paulette Goddard, center, and Mrs. Alice Longworth.

of Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose, and handsome husband Andrew Hay were down from New York. "I haven't seen you since Princess Margaret was here," a Washingtonian told Sharman. "I haven't seen her since then, either," said Sharman with a smile that meant something or other.

"Who's the glamor girl of Washington?" asked one of the New York guests, running her eye over Arlene Dahl, the British Embassy's Lord and Lady Cromer, Italy's elegant Ortonas, Sen. and Mrs. Jack Javits (R-N.Y.) and Sen. and Mrs. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.). "Alice Longworth," replied the Washingtonian, eyeing the grande dame who was in great form.

The night before Agnew resigned, Billy Taylor, the noted jazz pianist and composer, said to his high-ranking White House audience, "Life is not only choreographed but it's orchestrated." If Richard Nixon, the man he was playing for, hadn't found it orchestrated to his taste of late, he certainly wasn't showing it.

One couldn't help wondering why Mr. Nixon was in such a seemingly cheery mood. It came over even when he introduced Billy Taylor's mother who made her son practice when he was seven years old. "My mother made me practice at seven, too, and look where it got me," quipped Nixon.