

DEC 2 1973

What White House enemy list did to him



A NEW status was achieved by Priscilla and Julius Duschka after he made the enemies list.

—Examiner Photo by Fran Ortiz

By Caroline Drewes

"FAME is the perfume of heroic deeds," Socrates remarked one day.

Emily Dickinson described fame as "fickle food, upon a shifting plate."

Another poet, George Herbert of the 17th century, said, "There are many ways to fame." This might seem a statement of the obvious, but when you ponder the words, they are close to the issue at hand.

And Lord Byron, after publication of "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," observed, "I awoke one morning and found myself famous."

Well, Washington D.C.'s Julius Duscha awoke one morning to find himself in a sense famous too. And ironically, not because of the fine books he has written, nor for the scholarly political comment, the in-depth interviews which have appeared in the nation's prestigious newspapers and magazines, earning him a place in "Who's Who."

Julius Duscha has achieved a measure of fame because his name appears on a list. More specifically, on the White House enemies list, as revealed by John W. Dean III in that flat, careful, unemotional voice of his during the Watergate hearings last summer.

People identify Duscha by this label now, as a member of the distinguished company of enemies. Invitations to parties have burgeoned. His children regard him with added respect. Ruefully, if amiably, he says, "There has been more reaction to the fact of my name being on that list than to anything I have ever written. It's sort of discouraging."

It is also significant, when one considers what ruin other lists have brought to other lives in other climes in this country's history. The Hollywood Ten, for instance, in the McCarthy era.

(You will remember that the White House enemies list — described variously as a new "Who's Who" and as one of the most bizarrely captivating documents to come out of Watergate — includes not only the likes of Barbra Streisand, Steve McQueen and Bill Cosby, who quipped he was merely a "token black," but Eugene Carson Blake, former General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; composer-conductor Leonard Bernstein, 10 Democratic Senators and 12 black members of the House. As well as scores of newsmen).

There's another irony in the case of Julius Duscha. He says he doesn't understand why he made the list at all. His name, as an enemy, is linked with the Washingtonian. "I've contributed pieces far more critical of the administration to the New York Times Magazine. I always believed I had a reputation for being fair."

How the list has affected their lives was the subject of more than one conversation during Julius and Priscilla Duscha's visit here recently. They were here

in line with his work as director of the Washington Journalism Center, but it was also a return to an old stomping ground. A national political reporter for the Washington Post for 8 years and a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in 1965, Julius was appointed associate director of Stanford University's new professional journalism fellowship program in 1966, and they spent a year and a half in this area.

"It was immediate fun," says the vivacious, outspoken Priscilla of her husband's enemyship. "People called from all over to offer congratulations. A neighbor said, 'This should do a lot for our property values!'"

One day when Julius found himself in a roomful of other writers, none of them "enemies," the general feeling was expressed by one, who asked, "What's wrong with the rest of us?"

On a more serious level, there was a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union. "The ACLU wrote to each of the 200 enemies to ask if we had indeed been 'screwed by available federal machinery,' as Dean's memo had recommended. Were any grants which might have been applied for turned down? Had we been investigated by the IRS?" In Duscha's case, the answers were negative.

A cautious, thoughtful man, Julius Duscha talks now about things other than the list, interpreting today's Washington mood:

- Everybody in Washington thinks Nixon will resign, and that includes a lot of Republicans who don't want to talk about it publicly. Nobody knows what Nixon really thinks because nobody sees him. Johnson talked more when he was in trouble. Nixon is more isolated.

- But it will take pressure from Republicans with national stature like Goldwater as well as from the conservative press and from Wall Street . . . No one sees the House impeaching him.