

Potpourri

By Maxine Cheshire

The Saudi Arabian government may be responsible for the current fuel oil shortage, but that country's embassy here isn't going to be accused of hogging more than its fair share of energy available in the U.S. At a luncheon there last week, the thermostat was set at a diplomatically cool 65 degrees . . . At the White House last week, there was visible evidence that President and Mrs. Nixon are also enduring chillier temperatures. In the ground floor theater where the First Family watches movies, lap robes were draped over the easy chairs where the Nixons sit, gray for the President, turquoise for the First Lady and pale blue plaid for their daughters . . .

Presidential assistant Alexander M. Haig Jr. doesn't deny that current tensions are taking their toll. "I'm punch-drunk," he quipped the other night when someone asked him how he was. Then seeing a reporter, he amended his self-evaluation: "I'm punchy, but I'm not drunk" . . . At the same White House party, presidential counsel J. Fred Buzhardt demonstrated a compulsion for neatness. Stepping on a broken chrysanthemum that had been kicked out onto the dance floor, Buzhardt looked in vain for a place to dispose of it and finally stuffed it in his jacket pocket with a shrug . . . Former presidential assistant John Erlichman's McLean house is still unsold and vacant after six months. It was recently reduced in price, but not drastically enough to make anyone snap it up as a bargain. Erlichman came down from \$139,000 to \$135,500.

The Galloping Gourmet, Graham Kerr, has taken a house on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He and his wife and daughter, currently living aboard their boat on the Chesapeake Bay, will move in Dec. 16 with an open house that will be taped for his television show . . .

To cut down on legal fees, convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt has changed lawyers again. Sidney Sachs has been asked to turn everything, including Hunt's motion for appeal, over to the personal attorneys of columnist William F. Buckley, C. Dickerman Williams in New York and William A. Snyder Jr. in Baltimore. Buckley, who was with Hunt in the CIA, is godfather to his children and executor of his late wife's will.