

Notes on People

Bing Takes Brooklyn College Cultural Post

Sir Rudolf Bing has been appointed director of college-community cultural affairs at Brooklyn College, where he has been serving as Distinguished Professor. The former general manager of the Metropolitan Opera "will be a key element in drawing together the cultural life of the college and the cultural life of the community, strengthening both," according to Dr. John W. Kneller, president of Brooklyn College.

Although he was unable to be confirmed as Under Secretary of the Treasury, Helmut Sonnenfeldt, a protégé of Secretary of State Kissinger, had the way cleared yesterday for his taking another top job in Government—counselor to the State Department.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the nomination only a week after President Nixon had withdrawn his nomination of Mr. Sonnenfeldt as a Treasury Under Secretary. That nomination had been held up for months by Senators challenging Mr. Sonnenfeldt's qualifications. For five years he was an assistant to Mr. Kissinger in the National Security Council, specializing in Russian affairs.

The Foreign Relations Committee also approved the nomination of Walter J. Stoessel Jr. to be Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

The Governor of New Hampshire, Meldrim Thom-

son Jr. has asked the state attorney general to crack down on the activities of the Gay Students Organization at the state university. Mr. Thomson was particularly incensed over a publication called Fag Rag, which was distributed at a play about homosexuality sponsored on the Durham campus by the organization.

Mr. Thomson said the publication may be unlawful as it contains "solicitation for the purpose of unnatural sexual acts." The Governor also attacked the university's trustees for their "stupid and cowardly action" of giving "official sanction" to the Gay Students Organization as a recognized campus group.

The passing of 1973 saddens him not at all, said Hugh Scott, the Senate Republican leader. In fact, he said yesterday, "This is the worst year I've ever lived in a political sense; I hope next year will be better."

Mr. Scott told newsmen from his home state of Pennsylvania that this year his life had been dogged by Watergate and related matters, such as trying to persuade President Nixon to release more information on Watergate to the public. This, he said, was "a matter I daily raise with the President . . . as much a part of my life as brushing my teeth."

"Discussions are taking place, but no firm proposals

have been formulated," said the Duke of Wellington, about the Belgian Government's request that he "negotiate a settlement" on the annual \$48,000 he receives from an estate in Belgium given to his famous ancestor after Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo. The money comes from taxes and hunting and property rights on the 2,500-acre estate near the site of the Waterloo battlefield.

Given to the "Iron Duke" by King William of the Netherlands in 1815, it was stipulated that income from the land should be paid to all of the Duke's male descendants. The Belgians took over the debt of gratitude when their nation became independent of the Netherlands in 1930.

But now that the Belgians want to end the arrangement,

the current Duke must be worrying about the Spanish. He also owns a 2,500-acre estate near Granada, given to his illustrious ancestor after his rout of the French on the Iberian Peninsula.

Charles G. Rebozo, said to be President Nixon's best friend and chief financial adviser, has mailed Christmas cards to customers of the Key Biscayne, Fla., bank he controls, advising that "neither material wealth, fame, power nor admiration necessarily brings happiness." The depositors were also told that "happiness does not depend upon a full pocketbook, but upon a mind full of rich thoughts and a heart full of rich emotions."

Meyer Lansky, the reputed

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underworld figure, is so ill, his lawyers said in Las Vegas, that if the Government insists on trying him on skimming charges, the trial could kill him. In Federal court the lawyers presented a letter from Mr. Lansky's Miami Beach physician, Dr. Howard Grumer, to support their motion for dismissal of the skimming charges, which were contained in a 1972 grand jury indictment involving an alleged conspiracy to skim \$36-million from gambling receipts at the Flamingo Hotel casino without reporting it as income on tax returns.

The Lansky lawyers offered to have their client, who is 71 years old, examined by any physician appointed by the court.

Saying he was inspired by President Nixon's example, Robert W. Coburn, a businessman in Springfield, Mass., has offered a batch of his papers and other items to the National Archives, in

return for a tax write-off of \$384,766.80. The material was collected, Mr. Coburn says, during two years he was a zone manager for a money-management firm. It includes "notes of praise from my boss, toll receipts, notes of a kind nature from clients, unkind notes from clients, a briefcase of outdated prospects. . . ."

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