



MILTON PITTS: 'PRESIDENT NIXON IS ONE OF THE MOST WARM, FRIENDLY, OUTGOING CUSTOMERS I'VE EVER HAD.'

THE PRESIDENT'S BARBER

Milton Pitts, 54, originally from Greenville, S.C., but now from Washington, D.C., says, "President Nixon is one of the most warm, friendly, outgoing customers I've ever had."

Pitts, who has a one-chair barber shop in the West Wing of the White House, has been the President's barber for the last 4½ years. "In March, 1969," he explains, "Alex Butterfield, who was on the White House staff, said to me one day, 'How would you like to become the President's barber?' Quicker than I could bat an eyelash I said, 'I'd be delighted.' And that's how I got the job."

A small, pleasant, feisty Southerner, Pitts has a barber shop in the Sheraton Carlton Hotel, spends only two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, cutting hair in the White House, which is two blocks away.

"I not only cut and style Mr. Nixon's hair," he explains, "but also Mr. Kissinger's, Mr. Haig's, Dr. Tkach's, and it's all

done by appointment--except, of course, for the President. I'm on call for him at any time.

"I charge him by bill the same as I do everyone else: \$4 for a trim, \$7.50 for a hair styling. The President gets his hair trimmed every 10 days, and I can tell you definitely he does not dye his hair. I know a lot of politicians who do, but President Nixon does not. At his age, 61, I guess he doesn't have to. He likes a medium trim."

Pitts, who's run his hotel barber shop for nine years, says he doesn't know who recommended him for the job. "It may have been Senator Goldwater, former Secretary of State Rogers, John Chancellor--any of my customers--but whoever it was I'm grateful for the honor."

Married for the past 25 years "to the same woman, Izetta Stein," Pitts has four children, three sons and a daughter, and none of them wants anything to do with the barbering business. "My oldest boy Jim is an ordained minister at Furman; my son Bobby is a radio announcer

in Philadelphia; my third son lives out in Pomona, Calif., where he runs a building service, and I have an 18-year-old daughter, Barbara, who's a freshman in Frostburg College in Maryland. She's majoring in gymnastics."

According to Pitts, "President Nixon's hair is real easy to cut. Before he came to me or rather before I came to him, he used some kind of dressing on his hair, but now he doesn't. I just wet it and cut it while it's wet, and then use a hair dryer on it. I like the hair to look soft and natural. The President's does. He has a receding hairline, but what's left of his hair is healthy and has good body.

"The most difficult hair to cut belongs to Dr. Kissinger. It's tight and curly, very closely grown. But Dr. Kissinger is very easygoing about it. So long as it's cut and looks neat, that's all he cares about. He's also one of the best tippers.

"General Haig is another one of the White House staffers who's easy to get on with hair-wise. Matter of fact, he rarely takes the 30 minutes I allot to every customer. General Haig, I know, is a very profound man, but on top he's thin, and like most military men he goes in for a short or medium-short trim."

Several weeks ago barber Pitts was invited to the White House reception for visiting President Ceausescu of Romania.

"I was very honored," he says, "to be invited to such a diplomatic reception, only I didn't know how to pronounce the President's name."



NIXON—UNDYED



KISSINGER—GOOD TIPPER



HAIG—THIN ON TOP



GOLDWATER—OLD CUSTOMER