

President Criticizes Newspaper

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (AP)

—President Nixon, after attending the 90th birthday party of Alice Roosevelt Longworth, said tonight that she had kept young "by not being obsessed by the Washington scene."

"If she had spent all of her time reading The [Washington] Post or The Star [Washington Star-News] she would have been dead by now," he said.

"Mrs. Longworth keeps young by not being obsessed with the miserable political things that all of us unfortunately think about in Washington. By thinking about those great issues that will affect the future of the world, which The Post unfortunately seldom writes about in a responsible way."

Gift of Music Box

Mr. Nixon's attack on the newspaper that has been one of the prime disclosers of the Watergate issues came after dinner at one of his favorite restaurants.

Earlier he had attended the birthday party, as scores of friends honored Mrs. Longworth, a daughter of Theodore Roosevelt.

Mr. Nixon's gift to the grande dame of Washington society was a music box, embellished with the Presidential seal, that plays Strauss waltzes. He also gave her two jars of Iranian caviar, saying they were "from the Shah to Pat and from Pat to you."

"Now you should eat it with a spoon," the President told Mrs. Longworth. "Anyone who

loves caviar as much as you should always eat it that way."

While the President's wife, Pat, and his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. David Eisenhower, mingled with some of the 175 guests, Mr. Nixon held court in Mrs. Longworth's upstairs drawing room, chatting for almost an hour about everything from Maryland politics to female sex appeal.

The guest list included members of the Roosevelt family, another Presidential daughter, Mrs. Clifton Daniel, the daughter of Harry S. Truman; a former Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate, Sargent Shriver, and some members of Congress, including the Senate minority leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, and Senator Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illinois. Mr. Percy said he had given up a trip to the annual Lincoln graveside ceremonies in Springfield, Ill., to be with Mrs. Longworth on her birthday.

3 Birthday Cakes

There were three birthday cakes, one baked in the shape of a "9," another formed as an "O" and one designed as a Valentine heart. Presents were piled on the piano in the second floor of Mrs. Longworth's embassy row home.

The Nixons left after an hour and went on to celebrate another birthday. They took the White House physician, Dr. Walter R. Tkach, and his new bride to their favorite restaurant, Trader Vic's, to celebrate his 58th birthday.

The doctor's birthday was Saturday, but Mrs. Nixon explained they had put off the celebration because Dr. Tkach "had a cold."