

---

## Betty Beale: Washington

---

WASHINGTON — New Yorkers down for French Ambassador and Mme. Kosciusko-Morizet's dinner for Mary Lasker must have been amazed at the way the evening developed. Here in the U.S. capital on the day those incriminating private conversations in the Oval Office were made public, a gathering of noted political figures gave their rapt attention to sentimental and amusing songs of yesteryear.

While the city, indeed the whole country, buzzed with the gripping revelations, there sat Sens. Hubert Humphrey (D.-Minn.) and Chuck Percy (R.-Ill.) and Reps. George Mahon (D.-Tex.), Paul Rogers (D.-Fla.), Sylvio Conte (R.-Mass.) listening to colleague Jimmy Symington (D.-Mo.) singing "You're Irish, You're Beautiful, You're Sweet" to smiling House leader Tip O'Neill (D.-Mass.). Jimmy's hour-long concert was sparked by amusing renditions of "Ain't She Sweet?" by the French ambassador and "The Tattooed Lady" by Clark Clifford. It was all very pleasant, relaxed and unreal.

Privately, Congressman John Brademas (D.-Ind.) said the published transcripts supported John Dean's testimony, but Humphrey was reluctant to give his opinion. "Why should a barn painter compete with a Picasso?" he asked. "They have painted their own picture."

Tip O'Neill dodged the topic by commenting on another false presidential claim. "Nixon is the worst poker player I have ever played with but he always says what a good poker player he is. We used to play when he was in the House and he is the worst."

Percy had been too busy with Senate activities to study the transcripts but said he was pleased to see that Haldeman and Ehrlichman had not used as many expletives as the President.