

Pat Pooh-Poohs Jewelry Story

Washington

Pat Nixon, in her first public remarks on the report that she kept gifts of jewelry for nearly two years without advising White House record keepers, said yesterday the story is "for the birds."

Washington Post columnist Maxine Cheshire reported Tuesday that Mrs. Nixon had received a diamond bracelet and two pins for her daughters Julie and Tricia in July, 1972, from a half brother of Saudi Arabia's King Faisal and that the White House gift office was not notified until March 28 of this year.

Mrs. Nixon cut off a reporter who inquired of her at a reception honoring wives at the Pacific Basin Economic Council, "Mrs. Nixon, I have to ask this question . . ."

"Oh, no, you don't have to ask this question if it is not about this group," she shot back.

"Then you wouldn't care to comment about the Maxine Cheshire column," the reporters said.

"Oh, that's for the birds, everybody who read it said it was — from coast to coast," Mrs. Nixon said.

The White House maintains that the gift "was acknowledged" July 1, 1972, and that the jewelry was recorded then with the gift office.

Mrs. Nixon also disclosed that she went for a walk disguised in a scarf and dark glasses.

She said she went with a "friend" whom she would not identify.

Asked where, she replied, "to a park but I won't tell you which one because I don't want to bump into one of you (reporters) any of these days."

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