
Betty Beale: Washington

WASHINGTON — "It's in the social intercourse of Washington that you come to know America," said Atty. Gen. Bill Saxbe when he rose to his feet at a swish dinner party the other evening.

The dinner given by Palm Beach Congressman and Mrs. Paul Rogers in the fashionable 1925 F Street Club presented that view in spades. The prestigious types extended from Supreme Court Justices to the head of General Motors, from the Rockefellers who loved the LBJs to Bebe Rebozo's and John Ehrlichman's lawyer.

The latter, Bill Frates of Coral Gables, whom Rogers called "an outstanding trial lawyer," is loaded with personality. He has good looks, wavy brown hair and a quick grin which dimpled his cheeks when he admitted that his two clients couldn't be more unlike. He exaggerated, no doubt, when pinned down on the \$100,000 Howard Hughes donation that Bebe said he kept in a safe-deposit box for three years. "The Senate (Watergate) committee has spent \$2 million trying to prove Bebe didn't keep that money in the bank," he cracked. Bebe did not do anything illegal, he insisted, and he never told Nixon about the money.

"You know Bebe and the President are like two peas in a pod," he added. "The first time they met they played 18 holes of golf without saying a word."