

A few days ago, you gave in your columns a transcript of Watergate dialogue, in which Haldeman, in an aside, mentions the French Ambassador to Washington, Mr. Kosciusko. Haldeman said, "His name is Kosciusko — go figure that one out . . ."

Mr. Haldeman here betrays (not for the first time) the lightly furnished state of his mind. I thought every American school child knew at least the name if not the fact that the French had sent a member of this distinguished family to Washington!

Brig. Gen. Kosciusko (Thaddeus) was a Polish patriot who in 1776 came to America to fight in the Revolutionary Army as a colonel of engineers, distinguishing himself in New York and the Carolinas. Among other services, he engineered the fortification of West Point (where his statue still overlooks the Hudson). At the close of war, he received the thanks of Congress, a pension, and the rank of general. He was a founder of the Society of the Cincinnati. He lived in Philadelphia and in 1797 gave to Thomas Jefferson his will by which he left all his American funds to be used for freeing and educating slaves. He returned to Europe, settling in Paris, in 1798 and worked for the liberation of Poland and a better understanding between France and the U.S.

Congress had given him honorary U.S. citizenship, as later did France.

One may suppose that the French Ambassador was chosen for the Washington post at least in part by virtue of his famous ancestor's ties with this country, a pleasant compliment to the U.S.A. and one wholly wasted on the White House, we see.

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