
Betty Beale: Washington

An unlikely pair of admirers

WASHINGTON — How's for telling it like it is in this power-packed, dramatic and frequently unbelievable city?

The incredible sight and sound of Senate Watergate prosecutor Sam Dash and President Nixon's Jesuit speechwriter and longtime defender, Dr. John McLaughlin, lavishing compliments on each other! The two former adversaries exchanged warm greetings at author Pauline Innis's party in her Watergate apartment and talked about the fun they had on a recent panel at Briarcliff College.

Said McLaughlin, "Sam did a marvelous job as investigator and prosecutor." Said Dash, "The papers haven't been fair to him (McLaughlin). He is a very articulate, intelligent and capable man."

Father McLaughlin on his White House years: "It was a wrenching and wrecking experience, but it was also an exquisite experience." The ruggedly good-looking man commented on marriage for priests: "I haven't seen any philosophical or dogmatic basis in the Bible for a priest not marrying. The apostles were married."

Most exciting news at that party was the story of an oil strike by Paul Getty north of Mobile, Ala., which may turn out to have a capacity of 40,000 barrels a day, making it the largest in North America.

The unusual appearance of a head of government moving about at a White House state dinner in his honor clutching a zippered leather case. West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was asked if the case contained a German counterpart to the dread button that goes with our President everywhere. "No," said the dapper Schmidt, "it contains four pipes."

Donald Rumsfeld giving a look of distress when asked how he liked his new job. In Brussels he had the joys of ambassadorial living in a handsome embassy with control over his working hours, but whoever serves as the President's chief of staff can't really draw a breath he can call his own. He and Joyce have moved into a house on the Maryland border because it's less expensive there, said Joyce.