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Offering a Yacht to Uncle Sam

By Maxine Cheshire

Uncle Sam could have title to one of America's largest private yachts in exchange for a tax deduction.

Former Ambassador to Great Britain Walter Annenberg's sister, Mrs. Paul Ames of Rye, N.Y., has offered to give the government her 104-foot "Amerada," one of the largest luxury vessels in the United States.

Mrs. Ames, complaining that the "Amerada" was too expensive for her to maintain, had hoped either the White House or the State Department would want the yacht for the use of the President or visiting foreign dignitaries. Her lawyer made the offer a few days before April 15 in an effort to qualify for a 1974 tax break. But skeptical government officials weren't sure that they wanted to move that fast.

Mrs. Ames could not be reached last week, but a Pentagon spokesman said that there has been "some discussion" of using the boat for oceanographic research if annual maintenance and conversion costs are acceptable.

VIP

President Ford told an aide he thought it might be fun to have a party to celebrate the opening of the new White House swimming pool. But remembering the days of the Kennedy's Camelot, when New Frontiersmen made a sport of pushing one another into the water fully-clothed, Ford said he thought it might be wiser to stage his pool warming indoors. . . . The Ford family has viewed the latest hit film, "Jaws," in their private projection room. The President missed the first showing, but daughter Susan was so sure that her father would enjoy it, she had it held over.

Former Nixon administration press secretary Ron Ziegler has rented a house near San Clemente for his family for the summer. Neighbors here were told by Mrs. Ziegler before she left that she hoped her husband could find work that would allow her and the children to settle permanently in the Washington area. But she has re-

portedly resigned herself to moving either to "Los Angeles or New York or some other large urban area where people forget easier. . ."

Martha Mitchell is threatening to sue her would-be biographer, Winzola McLendon, to get back any and all memos and tapes pertaining to the book they were planning together. Mrs. Mitchell is looking for another writer and has already asked Washington astrologer Hal Gould if he would like the job . . . Nancy Kissinger's favorite candy is "Mother See's," which is made without preservatives and is so perishable that it is sold only in chain stores in California where it is manufactured. To keep his wife happy, the Secretary of State had an aide call the company to order five pound boxes shipped by airmail. At first the president of the company was so flattered that he could not bring himself to send a bill. Now, a spokesman says, Kissinger's secretary sends a check.

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