

SFChronicle SEP 10 1975

Brouhaha Brewing For the President?

By Vera Glaser

U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg Ruth Farkas sped back to Europe last week after a swift, secret trip home.

While in the U.S., she ducked reporters and didn't show at the State Department.

Dr. Farkas has been lying low because she is under scrutiny by the special prosecutor's office here. To make matters worse, her troubles could blow up in President Ford's face.

The White House, acutely aware of the touchy situation, says there are no indications she is about to be fired or resign.

The circumstances of Dr. Farkas' appointment by former President Nixon more than two years ago, when she gave \$300,000 to his campaign chest, have been under investigation for some time.



DR. RUTH FARKAS
Ambassador under fire

Former Representative Louis C. Wyman (Rep-N.H.) and former Nixon fund-raiser Maurice Stans helped Farkas get the Luxembourg post, made famous by the late Perle Mesta.

President Ford, aides say, wants to campaign in New Hampshire for Wyman, who is now in a hotly contested re-run for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Since Wyman and Democrat John Durkin first squared off last fall, there have been two recounts and a long, costly, inconclusive Senate wrangle, ending in a decision to hold another election.

So on Tuesday New Hampshire voters will return to the polls in what is hoped will result in a decisive tally.

The risks to Ford of involving himself in the New Hampshire contest are obvious, especially if Wyman and/or Dr. Farkas should be indicted. Rumors predicting one or more indictments are flying around Washington.

Wyman insists the money and ambassador's job never were specifically exchanged, and that the \$300,000 campaign contribution merely established Dr. Farkas' "eligibility" for the envoy's post.

The "eligibility" remark is regarded by some as an admission that the job was up for sale. A source in the special prosecutor's office called it "a real slip. I don't know why he did it."

Ruth Lewis Farkas, by most accounts, is highly capable. In her late sixties, she has helped direct the family business, holds a doctorate in sociology, is an inventor, has reared four sons, held high positions in welfare and cultural activities, and served in three previous part-time presidential assignments.