

## Betty Beale: Washington

# 'Final Days' is not the final word

WASHINGTON—The talk of the town is "The Final Days," but it's far from the final word on Watergate. It could be that Pat Nixon may end up being the only person who doesn't tell everything, although her book would command the biggest fortune of all.

But Pat doesn't have to go to her own defense for her exemplary behavior in the White House. The most strenuous denials provoked by "Final Days" concern Mrs. Nixon. Both her social secretary, Lucy Winchester, and White House curator Clement Conger say—off the record or on the record—there was no way she could have been "drinking heavily" without their being able to sense it. Said Mrs. Winchester, who probably saw her as much as anyone except her devoted maid, Fina Sanchez:

"I saw her the first thing in the morning and the last thing in the afternoon and I was on the phone during the day right up until the last couple of days. I would see her in the morning without her makeup on when there's no way to hide the signs of drinking such as puffiness around the eyes and a flushed complexion. She would have an event nearly every afternoon. She never missed one and she was always right on target—always on time.

"She would have done all her homework for each event. She knew exactly what each group had done that needed to be recognized and she was very alert and very gracious. I would go up with her after an event and we would rehash it over a glass of tea. There was never any hint of even the scent of liquor. I felt perfectly free to call her at any time and ask to see her and she would say, 'Come up.' As far as I am concerned, they (Woodward and Bernstein) should have put in front of their description of her: any resemblance to any person, living or dead, is purely coincidence."

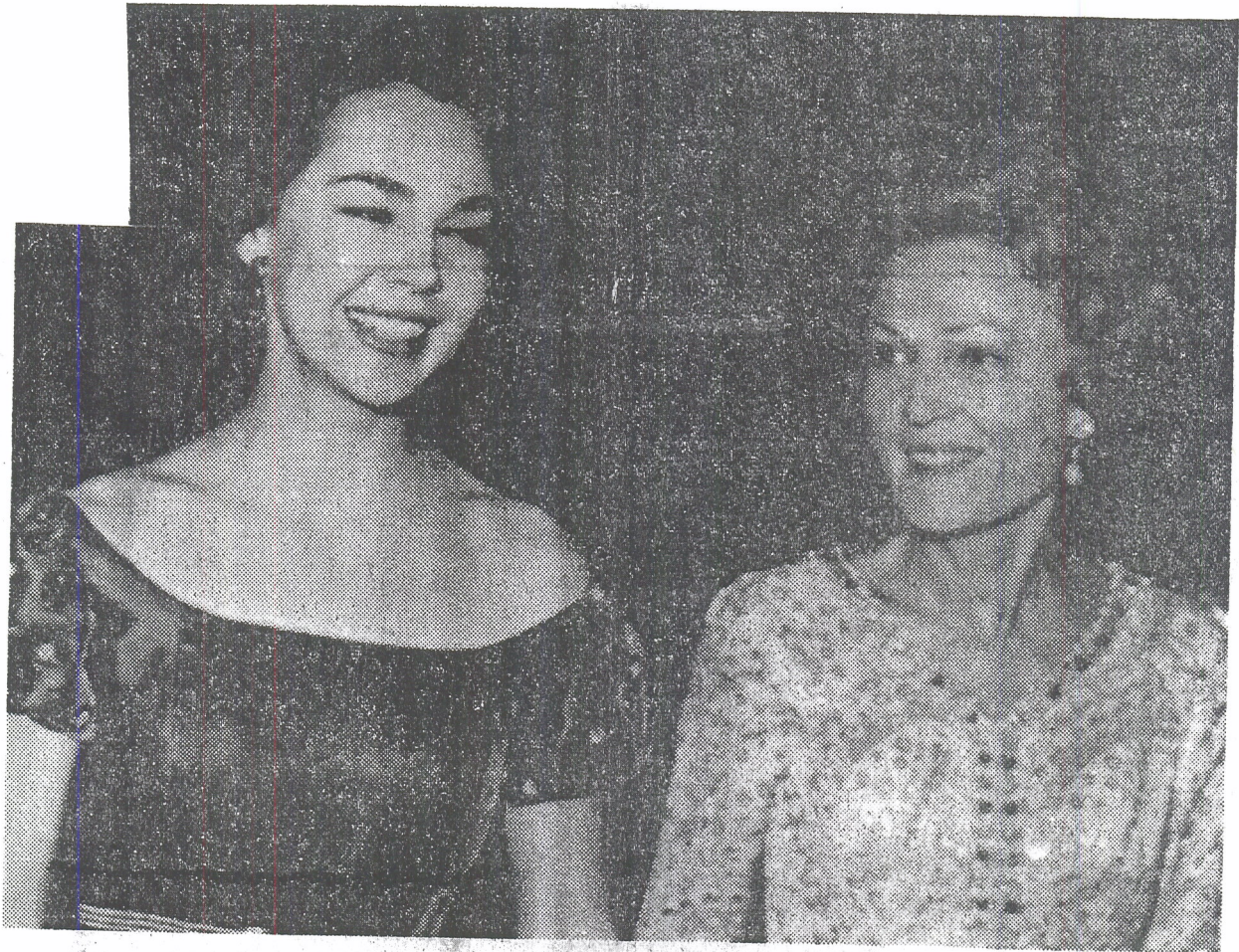
Conger said he saw Mrs. Nixon several times a week and "at all hours of the day and on into the evening up until the beginning of the last week. The most I ever saw her take was one light drink of bourbon before dinner. She was always so neat, so orderly and so in command of the situation she could not have been drinking heavily."

But even with "Final Days," all has not been told, says Watergate special prosecutor Leon Jaworski, who has a book coming out in October. "And I don't think anyone will question its authenticity," averred the Houston lawyer who said Nixon "had been engaging in wrong actions for a long time." Every major publishing firm in the country made a bid for it, but Reader's Digest won rights by paying a six-figure sum to the Jaworski Foundation, and promptly sold it to the Book-of-the-Month Club.

"There are a number of things that have not been told yet," said Jaworski. "There are things that occurred only between me and other individuals and in each instance there was only one other person present and they have not talked." Proof of his eagerness to set the record straight, said Leon, is that he won't get a penny for himself. His foundation will distribute the money into several charitable fields it supports.

And the former President's chief speechwriter, Raymond Price, who admittedly might be prejudiced in Nixon's favor, is writing on the same subject. Woodward and Bernstein's "picture of the President was not the picture I saw," said Ray, who had a close-up of the final moments because he worked with Nixon on the resignation speech. "He was not bonkers. He was remarkably calm."

"One of the most devastating things in their book is what Kissinger said about the President," continued Ray. "But everybody who knows Henry knows he talks this way about everyone — sometimes in jest, sometimes just to puff himself up. I have heard him do



Pat Nixon and Julie Eisenhower before Watergate



**WATERGATE**  
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that sort of thing time and again. Anybody who has worked with him knows that it doesn't reflect real opinion and is not something to be taken seriously." Maybe not, maybe so.

"Final Days" may be having other effects. "There is no way things couldn't be strained between Julie and David now," said a friend, meaning ever since Woodward and Bernstein said on TV that Ed Cox had not returned their calls but they had talked to David many times. "Julie is a super loyalist. She will fight for her father more than anyone. David is very intelligent, very candid and very forthright. He is not malicious, but if he talked to Woodward and Bernstein, Julie would regard that as high treason."

Julie's cancellation of several scheduled appearances in and out of Washington, however, is believed to be purely an effort to avoid the horrors of reporters' questions. Regarded by everybody as a sensitive and lovely young woman, Julie is delicately regretting invitations on the basis of David having to study for his law exams at George Washington University.

Queen Margrethe of Denmark will answer questions for the press while here but she has been so bored by the trite ones she is ruling them out in advance. Word has already gone to the National Press Club, which she will address at a luncheon on May 12, that she will not reply to questions on the upbringing of children or on fashions and clothes. Thank heaven! And she is prohibited by law to answer political questions.

So what can reporters ask? Questions on: (1) the position of the monarchy and its future: (2) the role of a queen in a modern society: (3) cultural relations between our two countries, and (4) archeology, American literature, music or any of her other hobbies. Margrethe sounds as if she has a lot on the ball.

Invitations have gone out to 60 or 70 top-level VIPs from the Queen for a dinner May 11 aboard her yacht Dannebrog before the Royal Danish Ballet performance that evening. And 300 people have been invited to attend the ballet and meet her and Prince Henrik at the reception in the Kennedy Center afterwards. That will NOT be the night the nude ballet, "Triumph of Death," is danced.