

Of Red-Faced Politicos, Presents and Veils . . .

By Maxine Cheshire

French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's advisers are red-faced to discover that one of their political enemies was awarded the contract to oversee installation of the **Son et Lumiere** display at Mount Vernon—France's Bicentennial gift to the United States. The company, S.N. Intervideo, is headed by Robert Pontillon, who is better known on both sides of the Atlantic as secretary for international relations of the French Socialist Party. Pontillon's connection with the firm was unknown at the Elysses Palace until he was spotted strolling on the grounds of Mount Vernon the night of the dedication . . . David Eisenhower will join the Wall Street law firm of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle in New York next fall. He plans to spend the summer cramming for his bar exam. . . .

Parisian jet-setter Rita Lachman, former wife of Revlon tycoon Charles Lachman, wants to wait long enough so that no one thinks she is "paying off" her invitation to the French state dinner here. But she plans to give the White House a Mary Cassatt painting, a "mother and daughter" oil, on behalf of herself and daughter, Charlene, 15 . . . Most car rental customers probably don't recognize her with her navel covered, but the woman chauffeur who drives VIPs for Admiral Limousine is local belly dancer Elsa Belman. Daughter of a Fredericksburg, Va., dancing school teacher, the 23-year-old Belman moonlights with rants here and has danced at the Sa-her veils at Middle Eastern restaurant Arabianna . . .

When Jacqueline Onassis bid on her first book as a Viking editor, she lost out to Doubleday. The work she

wanted was the memoir of Jean Monnet, commonly regarded as the father of the Common Market, published in France by Fayard . . . Dr. Louis Scaronne, who accompanied Elizabeth Taylor to Iran, was identified in stories from Tehran as a "nutritionist." Scaronne is credited with reducing her from a size 14 to a 6 and Miss Taylor now is helping him finance a clinic to be set up abroad . . . When Gordon Strachan was H. R. (Bob) Haldeman's assistant at the White House, he lived in a rented Foggy Bottom house. His private "scrambler" phone hookup to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. has long been disconnected, but the equipment wasn't removed until last week. To repair resulting paint-and-plaster damage, the owner hired Detective Sgt. Paul Leeper, who helped make the original Watergate break-in arrests. He moonlights as a house-painter . . .

Col. Jack Brennan's name didn't appear on any of the guest lists made public by the Iranian Embassy here, but the military aide who now serves as former President Nixon's chief of staff at San Clemente was among those who flew to Tehran on an "inaugural flight" last week as guest of the government-owned Iran Airlines . . . A top editor of the National Enquirer thinks Sen. Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy is going to be "very embarrassed" when Judith Campbell Exner's memoir, "Remembrances," starts appearing in serialization form in that publication. Mrs. Exner is definitely "uncomplimentary" about JFK's youngest brother, he says. Six million copies of the issue are being printed to flood supermarket and drugstore newstands just before the Democratic National Convention.