

WG

Marianne Means

SF Examiner

OCT 17 1976

Washington sideshow

WASHINGTON — Elizabeth Taylor is moving to the nation's capital just in time.

There has been a terrible celebrity vacuum here ever since the Kennedy mystique began to be a bore. The city has had to rely for excitement on Henry the K, but he is about to leave his post. There hasn't been a really bigtime hostess since Perle Mesta. Jerry Ford's idea of glamor is Miss America, and Jimmy Carter's idea of a good time is square dancing.

But the first real live resident Hollywood superstar ought to bring the place to life again, particularly since she arrives on the arm of a handsome, politically ambitious and rich man. After all, once the metropolitan area acquired Bloomingdale's, it was ready for anything.

Meanwhile, politics went on as usual:

Item: Former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell and his Justice Department successor, Richard Kleindienst, dined together at the expensive Sea Catch restaurant last weekend. They were accompanied by an unidentified third couple, Mrs. Kleindienst, and Mary Deane, who is Mitchell's constant companion and a member of the family that owns the restaurant.

The friendly socializing came only three days before the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld Mitchell's conviction on conspiracy and obstruction of justice charges in the Watergate scandal. Mitchell has also been disbarred. Kleindienst, however, although the

first attorney general ever convicted of a criminal charge, is still practicing law here.

Among other clients, he has a \$120,000 a year contract for legal services to the Algerian ministry of industry and energy. Kleindienst pleaded guilty to failing to testify fully before the Senate Judiciary Committee and was given a one-month suspended sentence but was not disbarred.

Item: Ralph Nader's public citizen organization is planning a gala here Nov. 11 to honor Groucho Marx, who is 86 and in poor health. Nader and Marx may seem like the odd couple, but Nader wanted to raise money and Marx has been a Nader fan for many years.

Marx will also have lunch with First Lady Betty Ford while he's in town.

Item: President Ford's choice of former Rep. Edith Green, an Oregon Democrat, as chairman of "Citizens for Ford" may backfire. Most of the education establishment is furious with her, because as chairman of the House education subcommittee she fought for vast cutbacks in school and research programs. When she was under consideration for secretary of Health, Education and Welfare last year, teachers across the country protested to the White House.

Item: Gene McCarthy, an independent presidential candidate, listed the other day the men besides himself he considers qualified for the job. He named Gov. Adlai Stevenson, who is dead; Sen. Hubert Humphrey, who is ill, and Sen. Edmund Muskie, who blew his chances in 1972. No mention of his fellow Minnesotan, Walter Mondale, or those other two guys seeking the presidency. Very generous, that McCarthy.

Item: Does Jimmy Carter know something about the Democratic presidential line of succession that we don't know? At Boston College recently he referred to Sen. Edward Kennedy as "the next president, er I mean senator."