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Jacksonville Journal 8/17/74

Fords Give First Party

WASHINGTON (AP) — There was so much friendly informality it could have been a country club dance, yet there was also the feeling of an inaugural ball last night as President Ford gave his first state dinner.

The party capped Ford's first week as President of the United States.

The President arrived in

Robert S. McNamara, head of the World Bank and a former secretary of defense for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, hadn't been in the White House since 1968.

And Rep. Pete McCloskey, R-Calif., who ran against Nixon for the GOP presidential nomination, opposed his





Photos by Frank Johnston, James A. Parcell and Linda Wheeler—The Washington Post

center, from left, Jacqueline Onassis, Alejandro Orfila, Betty Ford and Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, and President Ford. Below right, Sen. Charles Percy presents Stevens his award.

Off Stage

nominee George
and American
al Commission
with Page Lee

that the order of the acts was being changed backstage by director Joshua Logan up to the very last minute.

Act Two began with the presentation of a scroll for Stevens by Sen. Charles M. Percy (R-Ill.), Kennedy Center vice chairman. He praised Stevens, who has

it, considerably
goal in ticket
donations had



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Margot Silliphant; Larry Israel; Jonathan Winters



GRAND OLD PARTY: Reporters and pols alike agreed there had never been anything quite like it at the White House. A President of the United States out on the dance floor doing a boogie and dancing with almost every woman in the room. Liberal Democrats sipping champagne with right wing Republicans and reporters invited to sit at the table next to the President.

Marie Ridder of Ridder newspapers and a friend of former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy, said unequivocally that the first Ford state dinner Thursday night in honor of King Hussein of Jordan was more fun than the Kennedy parties. "I'm having an absolute ball," she said.

Senator Mark Hatfield danced by President Ford and his wife Betty and remarked, "Happy new year, Mr. President. This is just like New Year's Eve. It's so happy." "Why have a soulful evening when things are going

Syndicated

Helen Smith

Ford's First State Dinner Pays Tribute to Hussein

By **TRUDE B. FELDMAN**
Light's White House Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford hosted their first state dinner at the White House recently, but they hadn't yet moved in to the Executive Mansion. It was also the first state dinner at the White House in eight months.

The dinner-dance was in honor of Jordan's King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Alia. Hussein was the first head of state to visit Ford since he became President. Ironically, only last March, then-Vice President and Mrs. Ford gave their first dinner at the State



"We are not only comforted, but confident, that the U.S. will contribute her full share for the achievement of this worthy objective under your wise leadership."

After drinking to the king and the President, and after a joyous hour of dancing, the Fords walked the royal couple to their limousine which took them to Blair House.

Unlike the Richard M. Nixons, who were able to just take the elevator up to their living quarters, the Fords got into another limousine and were driven to their Alexandria home. Before departing, the new first couple said: "We



—UPI Telephoto to The Times-Union

President Ford dances with Queen Alla of Jordan (left) while First Lady dances with King Hussein at White House.

chron

Hussein Ends U.S. Visit with Aid Talks

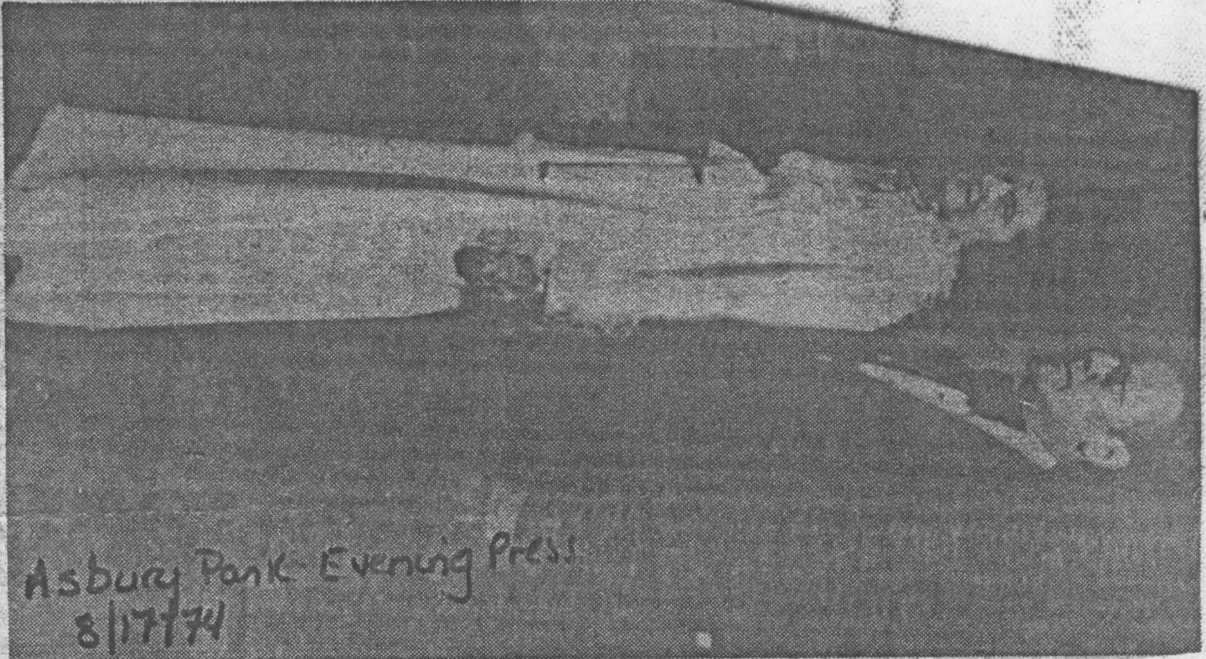
WASHINGTON (AP) — King Hussein of Jordan was to wind up a two-day private

Aide Calls Ford 'the King'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Through a slip of the tongue,

sistance, \$30 million in surplus sales on credit terms, \$5.8 million in military assis-

FIRST WHITE HOUSE DINNER — President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford wait on the steps of the White House North Portico last night for King and Queen Hussein of Jordan to arrive for the first state dinner with Ford as the nation's President. (AP).



Asbury Park Evening Press
8/17/74

Fords' First State Dinner

By Isabelle Shelton

Star-News Staff Writer

There was life and joy and gaiety in the White House last night. And, once again, there was a dancing President in the East Room.

It was President Gerald Ford's first State Dinner — in honor of King Hussein of Jordan — given just a week after the host became Chief Executive.

Many of the guests, and in fact most of the 50 or so invited in afterwards just for dancing, were old Congressional colleagues of Ford which added to the atmosphere of romping, good fellowship and fun.

In fact, the stately East Room looked rather like prom night. Everybody seemed to want to dance and the tables ringing the floor were rarely occupied.

Many began dancing as soon as the dinner featuring sirlon beef Bourdelaise, chocolate mouse and French wines ended, while Ford and his wife Betty, and their guest of honor were still greeting after-dinner guests.

The foursome went into the glittering chandelier-lit East Room at about 10:30 p.m. and Devron's Orchestra played "Tie a Yellow Ribbon," as the President danced with the Queen and the King quided Mrs. Ford, the new First Lady, around the dance floor.

There were some rapid exchanging of partners after that, and soon the President and his wife were dancing together as Devron played "Betty Coed" in her honor.

At another point, Devron played "You've Got to Be a Football Hero," in honor of ex-football star Ford. The new President and his wife obviously enjoy dancing and rarely sat down, although they did stake out a table with King Hussein and Queen Alia.

Republican National Chairman George Bush, who is high on the list of those rumored as Ford's possible Vice Presidential nominee also cut a fast swath.

See WHITE HOUSE, B-3

The Weather

Today—Partly cloudy, high in the mid 80s, low about 70. Chance of rain is 40 per cent today, 30 per cent tonight. Sunday—Cloudy, high in the mid 80s. Yesterday's temperature range, 89-70. Details are on A17.

The Washi

97th Year No. 255

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SATURDAY, A

POST - 8/17/74



United Press International

President Ford takes to the dance floor at the White House with Jordan's Queen Allia, guest with King Hussein at first state dinner of the new administration. Mr. Ford pledged to press for Mideast peace. Story on Page B1.

The Washington Post

STYLE

People

The Arts

Leisure

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1974



President Ford dances with Jordan's Queen Alia while Mrs. Ford dances with King Hussein at last night's state dinner.

Dinner at the White House: A New Man, a New Mood

*By Jeannette Smyth
and William Gildea*

At 10 minutes before midnight, all of last night's White House guests gathered around in a large circle as President Gerald Ford and Cindy Nessen, wife of NBC

newsmen Ron Nessen, rocked out on the dance floor to the tune of "Bad Bad Leroy Brown." It was a scene of gaiety not witnessed at the White House for years.

Briefly Mr. Ford seemed hesitant to keep up with his partner, offering a mild two-step instead, but then he stepped up his pace, a performance that drew loud cheering and applause at its conclusion.

In the light mood of the evening, a liberal Republican danced with the queen of Jordan and a television commentator joked with a

Democrat, "I was saying to somebody the other day, 'neither one of us has been to the White House in six years.'"

One week and one day after becoming President, Mr. Ford gave the first state dinner of his administration for Jordan's King Hussein and Queen Alia. There was dancing. There were Democrats. And the President escorted his guests of honor home at a reasonable hour

and then came back and danced some more.

Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) was one of 50 guests invited for dancing after 120 guests had dined in the State Dining Room. "This is quite an event," said Schweiker, "the Schweikers' return to the White House. This is the first state dinner we've been invited to since I voted against Supreme Court nominee G. Harrold Carswell four years ago."

So it wasn't just the music of Howard Devron's society orchestra that called the tune at the White House last night. There seemed to be a relaxation of the animosities and troubles that had subdued the gaiety at White House parties for the past two Watergate years.

White House chief-of-staff Alexander Haig, who will stay on as a top aide to Mr. Ford, looked relaxed and was smiling. He joked with veteran newswoman Sarah

McClendon, whose crusade helped bring about the decision to oust the Veterans Administration head. President Ford will announce a new VA director soon, and Haig told McClendon, "You give me your recommendation, Sarah, and we'll put him in. But then you have to shut up."

Presidential counselor Dean Burch grabbed Republican National Committee Chairman George Bush

in the hall after dinner. "Hey, George," said Burch to the man who is considered a front-runner as Mr. Ford's Vice President. "You can go through the receiving line again. The President's there and you can get another hit at him." Bush, who said he was leaving for a Maine vacation this month, would answer no questions from reporters. He did take a lot of



Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, left, and Jordan's King Hussein and Queen Alia raise their glasses in a toast at last night's state dinner in their honor.

By Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

the king and queen of Jordan. The dinner had been put together in less than a week.

It's not that the White House was unaware of King Hussein's impending visit; it's just that no one knew who would be President when he arrived.

One of Gerald Ford's first presidential decisions concerned the Jordanian king's

ing, another week's into an afternoon." One serious problem was a lack of records for handy reference. As soon as Richard Nixon resigned, everything relating to his administration was packed up in boxes and turned over to the Archives.

But making up the guest lists frazzled the most nerves. As late as 5 p.m. yesterday, there were still

the executive chef, Henry Haller. Mrs. Ford said their suggestions were "delicious, marvelous."

Haller goes back to the Johnson administration when last minute meals were a weekly happening. Johnson often asked people in for conferences and then later to stay on to have dinner with him.

See STATE, B2, Col. 4

Hucksterism, Kitsch and The Promoting of the Buy-Centennial

By Wolf Von Eckardt

Cityscape

The Bicentennial is still two years away. But the Buy-Centennial—the commercial exploitation of the nation's 200th birthday—has already begun. We took time and worked hard to create America's BiCentennial Ice Cream, says a recent advertisement by Liberty Ice Cream Co. of Terminal 4, Calif., offering "Valley Forge

In Newsweek, Time, Sports Illustrated and Saturday Evening Post before an alert pressman discovered that GM's ad men had left the "I" out of "America."

It would be even more embarrassing, I suppose, if the red-white-and-blue

cial kitsch, there is expensive Bicentennial kitsch.

"Common Sense," the publication of the "People's Bicentennial Commission" reports, for instance that a "U.S. Bicentennial Society" has recently been established in Richmond, Va. It is headed by Robert H. Kline, a professional marketing executive, and it is dedicated to marketing "fine bone china plates" bearing the portraits of



White House Dinner: New Man, New Mood

ER, From B1

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ding Tom Koro-
White House con-
liaison.

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dinner during a
sit, the first visit
of state Mr. Ford
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night's still more
gathering. Hus-
had been invited
former President
ing his recent trip

It was Mr. Nixon's habit to scurry right on in with the guests. But having stood erect and looked solemn, wearing a game face as he might have as the football player he once was, during the initial stiff greetings at the car door, Mr. Ford appeared at ease and smiled a lot for the pictures. And so did the other three, especially Mrs. Ford, wearing a white crepe gown trimmed in ostrich feathers.

In a brief, directly put welcome, Mr. Ford cited that there have been "some

beef bordelaise dinner were Bush, a top contender in the vice presidential sweepstakes, and Chase Manhattan Bank president David Rockefeller, whose brother Nelson is another front-runner.

Chairmen and ranking Republicans of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees were invited, along with three other members of the powerful House committee and one from the Senate's Senate Appropriations Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) was unable to attend because his



Double Header For Pearl

By Dorothy McCardle

Singer Pearl Bailey, wearing an African caftan, stole the show from a queen and got drafted yesterday for campaign duty for Mayor Walter Washington.

Miss Bailey arrived almost an hour late for the lunch which Nancy Kissinger, wife of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, gave at the National Gallery of Art for Jordan's Queen Alia.

People 9/2/74

THE NIGHT THE FORDS TOOK UP THE RUG IN THE EAST ROOM

We love to dance!" exulted the President, and in a burst of merrymaking such as the White House hasn't seen in years, he and Mrs. Ford rolled up the rug in the East Room, brought in a swing band, and turned 170 guests loose with plenty of champagne.

The official reason for the swinging *soirée* was a state dinner for King Hus-

Schweiker, who cracked, "They've shredded the enemies' list."

As the White House's young military aides looked on in smiling disbelief, Vermont's 82-year-old Senator George Aiken fox-trotted across the floor. So did former Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, who had not entered the White House in six years.

DAVID HUME KENNERLY



NOW THE TEAM IS COMPLETE: JERRY & ROCKY

The new President likes to say that he's a Ford, not a Lincoln. Last week he was highballing ahead with the authority of a Mack truck.

The action began in Chicago when Ford flew in Air Force One (returned to its original designation after being named "The Spirit of '76" by Nixon) to address the 75th convention of the Vet-

STANLEY TRETICK



In a Chicago motorcade, President Ford happily waves at the crowd while Betty peers out from inside.