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Pool Report

The White House reception for Inland press association drew far more White House staff than usual. They mixed and mingled--Robert Hartmann, Greenspan, Faroody, Margita, Nessen, and an old timer, Herb Klein.

There was more expensive food--and the midwestern editors and the many publishers and print trade executives were oohing and awwing over the big bowls of shrimp. There was a new dish--slices of lobster for snacks. This was a great favorite. No skimping here.

The President shook hands with all including the children. Nine-year-old Jean Cousley of Alton, Ill., daughter of Steve C., said "The president shook hands with me and I said 'Hi.'"

Herb Klein and Bob Hartmann had a long quiet talk. Klein said the Nixon furore over China probably would be a ~~surprise~~ surprise to the former President "when he finds out about it". "It has been more noise in the east than in the west," he said. "I do know that before he went on the trip several people who are highly knowledgeable who are not in the state department but who know Nixon advised him to make the trip on the theory that it would be good for long range U.S.-Chinese relations."

The woman who told the President during the press conference "I commend you for letting Betty speak her mind" was Mary Leopard, wife of William Leopard, publisher of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, S. D. She is book editor and general reader of other newspapers for him. "My husband has always backed me up and I like the way the President has backed up Betty. I think she has a lot of good ideas for the modern woman. Betty has spurred on a lot of women. She's not plastic."

Sarah McClendon