

pool report on dinner at French Embassy

from Dorothy McCordle

President Ford was jubilant all evening at dinner at French Embassy. First good report ^{of election returns} trickled in from member of Congress who arrived as guests at the dinner.

When he and Mrs. Ford returned from the dinner at 11:45 p.m. he said: at the White House:

"It's been a wonderful victory. We want to thank all those people who were so very kind to us and made it possible in Maryland and Michigan."

The dinner had been one of the most dramatic ever seen in this town. The French had imported a tent maker from Paris who set up a ballroom, like a room at Versailles, by pitching a tent over the back garden. Tapestry had been imported from Versailles, pictures from the Louvre, too. And special embroidered table cloths by Dior with a Bicentennial ^{motif} covered the long table, arranged in French battle-ship array. The Bicentennial china had been made for the occasion by Limoges.

The after dinner toast saluted the harmony between France and the United States going back before the American Revolution.

The President of France gave Jerry Ford credit for the good feeling which now exists between France and the United States. and added, "I hope I am not interfering in the domestic affairs of your country."

President Ford said that the tie with France predated the American Revolution, long before 1776.

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President Ford named the American cities with French names, Detroit and New Orleans, etc. He spoke of the Bicentennial going to the christening of a new American warship named the De Grasse, ~~for a~~ named ^{for a} French Admiral which he hopes will help keep the peace for the third century.

"France and the United States have shared dream and challenge for 200 years," said Ford "I see our vital partnership for generations to come. We will stand together for freedom and justice for all on the eve of the third century."