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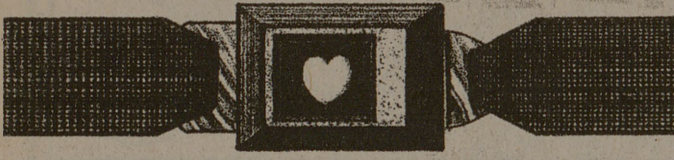
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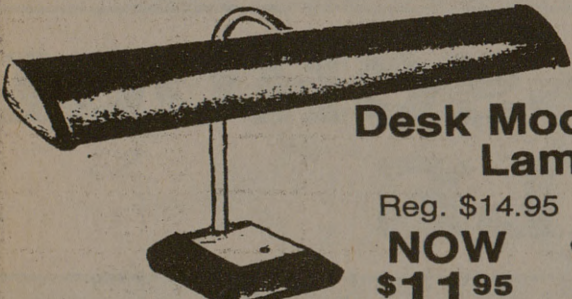


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Powell's press job not easy

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Jody Powell is stepping into one of the toughest jobs in the White House — spokesman for the president.

In the past, the role has been more distinguished for its failures than its successes. His predecessors have all assumed the mantle of "Voice of the White House" apparently with good intentions, stressing openness and candor. But somewhere along the way to the forum, their credibility often came into question.

Powell, 33, of Vienna, Ga. is one of the two closest advisers to Jimmy Carter. The other is Hamilton Jordan, who was Carter's campaign manager. Both were with Carter when he was governor of Georgia, and both won their credentials as the early true believers.

Powell is sometimes described as Carter's alter ego. Certainly when reporters talk to him they assume that they are getting the straight goods from the president-elect. Powell does not discourage that view.

Powell can be knowledgeable and glib in knowing Carter's intentions. He is trusted enough to sit in on the top secret meetings, and trusted by Carter to be close mouthed with reporters. Carter has said "I will never lie to you." Powell has said he knows it's important to be credible, but he has never laid it out in Carter's words.

The relationship between Carter and Powell was tested and survived without a dent after Carter's disastrous "Playboy Magazine" interview at the height of the campaign. In the interview, Carter disclosed that he "lusted" after women. Powell had arranged the interview, but Carter, according to sources, never chided him for it.

Their friendship is so close that Powell can tell a group of reporters watching Carter at a soft ball game "he's an arrogant little bastard."

Powell has selected a staff, including two former reporters as deputies. They are Rex Granum, who will frequently brief the press, and Walt Werfel who will be in charge of administration.

Powell will have direct access to Carter anytime he needs it. He also will serve in an advisory capacity to the president. In addition to the White House press division, he also will supervise Carter's speech-writing department and will be in charge of other contacts with the public.

In chats with reporters, Powell said that he intends to be accessible to the press. Carter also has said he will hold news conferences on an average of once every two weeks, and he appears to be relaxed about such meetings.

Carter's own relationship with the press is friendly at times and aloof at

other times. He obviously chafes at ready under the "protective" scrutiny of reporters and cameramen when he would like to be in public without a press entourage. At times he has tried to give the press the slip while he is on an outing around Plains. Sometimes he has succeeded and sometimes he hasn't. Powell has told reporters that there will be times when Carter does not want to be covered that closely.

Carter felt he did not get a fair shake at times from television particularly during the campaign, and he told the TV correspondents what was on his mind. He often recalls that when he began his campaign for

the presidency a few years ago he who had to approach a reporter and make himself known.

Powell is a student of political science and was close to attaining a doctorate when he broke away to take part in the real world of politics. Some observers believe that a one-man band and bitten off more than it is humanly possible to chew, even in the national spotlight, and even with all the tance he will have.

On the other hand, Carter's press spokesman came to the White House with the lessons of the clearly written, knowing there was room for improvement.

Carter inaugural to begin with fireworks extravaganza

WASHINGTON — The Inauguration of Jimmy Carter will be launched tonight with a green and white bang that can be heard for miles around.

A five-day Inaugural festival officially gets under way with a fireworks display — in the Carter-Mondale colors of green and white — on the mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

The opening salvo will be so loud it can be heard for 12 miles, organizers said.

The fireworks are just one aspect of Carter's "people's inaugural" that will be unique in many respects.

Among them is Carter's decision to walk the last two blocks of the inaugural parade route along Pennsylvania Avenue so campaign workers and friends who paid \$25 each for special seats can get a good look at him.

Also breaking tradition, he will walk from Blair House across the street to the White House Thursday

morning for a cup of coffee with President Ford before the two men drive to the Capitol for the swearing-in.

While the fireworks marks the official start of inaugural week, the actual festivities open earlier in the day with a dozen free concerts around town, a film festival, poetry reading, children's theater and a horse show — all free to the public.

Before the fireworks there will be just about every kind of live music imaginable outdoors on the mall. For the first 2,000 who get tickets and want to stay inside, away from icy winds, the Atlanta Symphony and the National Symphony will present a joint concert — free — in the Kennedy Center.

After the concert the Kennedy Center roof offers a ringside seat for the fireworks.

Forecasters say it's going to be a chilly week. The 1977 Inaugural Committee just hopes Carter won't be the first president since William Howard Taft in 1909 to be driven indoors by a blizzard.

Soldiers armed with even from shovels to flame throwers ready to attack any snow that fall.

The National Weather Service first Inauguration Day forecast predicts the temperature will be "near 20 degrees" by the day noon swearing-in.

Unusual subfreezing temperatures have gripped the capital two weeks, sending Inaugural planners out to buy long underwear. The solar heating panels stand outside the White House. It's been boosted by good old-fashioned steam heat.

Carter will miss the inaugural events. He and his immediate family are scheduled to arrive in Washington from Plains, Ga., late in the afternoon. The first event known he will attend is the inaugural concert at the Kennedy Center tomorrow night.

The president-elect's brother Billy gets in town earlier tomorrow — leading a chartered plane with about 100 kinfolk and friends. They will take over the top floor of downtown Washington hotel.

Brown's raid sets precedent

An article written by the late Dr. Keith A. Sutherland of Texas A&M University describing a U.S. Senate investigation of the Harpers Ferry raid appears in the Winter 1976 issue of "Prologue," Journal of the National Archives.

The 16-page, copyrighted article revolved around the 1859 Senate inquiry of the raid led by John Brown four years earlier.

Sutherland had been a member of the A&M history faculty about two

years when he died in a West Texas auto accident last year. Before coming to A&M, he had been an instructor at Tarleton State University.

His article explains that the investigation of the famous pre-Civil War incident set precedents for future Congressional inquiries, including the broadening of subpoena powers and expansion of the right to punish those found in contempt of Congress.

Coal will replace gas for heating

Coal will probably be the successor to natural gas as the fuel for homes of the next generation, but few researchers think people tolerate the dirty, foul-smelling material in the homes.

"No, people wouldn't like to go back to coal after so many years of clean burning natural gas," says Dr. Jack H. Lunsford, a researcher at Texas A&M University studying chemical reactions that allow conversion of coal to a use methane gas.

"One of the principal ways utilization of coal as fuel is to convert it to methane which is the primary component of natural gas," he explained. "This conversion process takes place over a catalyst which allows the change to proceed at a reasonable rate and moderate temperatures."

The goal of this development would be to make the methane produced from coal more economically competitive with natural gas. This would be particularly true if gas prices are deregulated, being considered by the incoming Carter administration.

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