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# Cultural Dinner Set for May 25

## Event Is a 'First' for National Cultural Center

By BETTY BEALE  
Staff Writer

Probably the most important cultural dinner ever held in Washington will take place at the Statler on May 25.

To be followed by "An Evening With the Performing Arts" the brilliant affair will be the first formal gathering held by the National Cultural Center which sent out the invitations this week end.

Everybody who's anybody in the cultural life of the Capital and the Nation, said the President. Describing the Cultural Center as belonging to the entire country, he further noted, "the challenge of its development offers each of us a noble opportunity to add to the aesthetic and spiritual fabric of America."

The dinner, headed by Mr. Burling, Mrs. Neill Phillips and Mrs. Blair Childs, is being sponsored by such Capitalians as Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wood Bliss, the David Brucers, the Clark Cliffords, Bishop of Washington, and Mrs. Rufus Dun, the Clifford Folger, the Arthur Gardners, the George Garretts, Gen. and Mrs. Alfred Gruenther, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Kauffmann, Mr. and Mrs. Milton King, the H. Gates Lloyds, Atomic Energy Commissioner and Mrs. John McCone, Federal Reserve Chairman and Mrs. William McChesney Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert May, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Strong, National Cap-

ital Committee Chairman and Mrs. Philip Talbot, the John Walkers, the Stanley Woodwards and District Commissioners McLaughlin, Karrick and Welling and their wives. "A NOTED AMERICAN ACTRESS will emcee the performance after dinner that will include internationally famed stars of the Metropolitan Opera, the ballet, and the concert stage. Their names will be released later. Incidentally, to establish a strong and valid case throughout the country for a nationally supported center as opposed to a local project, the center's fund-raising firm, George A. Brakely Co. of New York (which is headed by Washington-born G. A. B., jr.) now is getting in touch with the 100 top thinkers in the country in the performing arts field. . . . For your information the list of 100 runs the gamut from literary genius Carl Sandburg to theatrical producer Billy Rose. They will ask these people to state the case for the country—why performing arts are important to a nation, how they are helpful to the individual and what impact they have on civilization. . . . PRESIDENT EISENHOWER probably will take a good luck charm to Russia with him. It wasn't his idea, but it seems as good a place as any to put one on hand. . . . when the First Lady was in the Bartz and King jewelry shop some weeks ago, Mr. King said he wanted to present the Chief Executive with a good luck piece—a gold horseshoe adorned with a black star sapphire. Mrs. Eisenhower being a woman and therefore practical, said, "Why not wait until we go to Russia? That's when we'll need it."

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With the Russian trip approaching, the little gift has been delivered to the White House and a letter of thanks has come back. The President expressed his appreciation for such a handsome omen of good luck, especially, he said, as he enters the last difficult months of his administration. The horseshoe may be carried by the President as a loose pocket piece, or, since it has a little gold loop at one end, it may be attached to a key ring or a watch chain. . . . There's also a good chance that it will end up on Mrs. Eisenhower's charm bracelet. . . .

ADLAI STEVENSON'S South American comments are wending their way back through the embassies of the countries he visited. A Colombian diplomat says that while he was in his country someone asked him, "Do you think you were defeated because you are a pure intellectual?" Replied Gov. Stevenson, "I'm not sure I am such an intellectual, but people think

I am because I am bald-headed." Someone else asked him what he thought of Castro. "I think he needs more sleep," was Adlai's terse comment. The Latinos, who are familiar with Castro's long and late harangues on the air, chuckled with delight. . . .

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BUFFIE IVES, Mr. Stevenson's sister, was sporting the most elegant and original Democratic donkey pin at the luncheon here last Tuesday that this writer has ever seen. . . . She had it made by jeweler Serafin in Florence and it has the look of a Renaissance piece. It's a gold donkey's head with wavy mane and a narrow diamond and platinum collar with a hanging star of same.

The reason, by the way, that the Augusto Rossos gave their big, beautiful party at the 1925 F Street Club the other night for Mr. and Mrs. Ives was a Florentine evening gown. . . . While over there last summer Buffie fell in love with a gray chiffon, Grecian-draped model at the house of Calabri, but she couldn't decide if she should spend that much money for a dress she would hardly ever wear. "I have no use for it in Southern Pines," she told Frances Rosso, who spends her summers at her villa in Florence. "Well, you come to Washington and I'll give you a summer for the dress," said Frances.

Replied Gov. Stevenson, "I'm not sure I am such an intellectual, but people think I am because I am bald-headed."