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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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JFK Urged Jackie to Hurry Home

By Jack Anderson

President Kennedy, impatient over his wife's prolonged absence from the White House, phoned her in Morocco earlier this week and urged her to hurry home.

He was irritated, say intimates, over her failure to get back in time to help entertain the Irish Prime Minister.

He also was disturbed over the tittle-tattle, the acid-sweet whispers going around Washington about her Mediterranean merry-making.

Intimates explain that Jack and Jackie Kennedy are independent, strong-willed individuals who have had their share of the spats and slights, the trials and tantrums of married life.

One of their closest friends suggests that Jackie, distraught over the loss of her baby, had been chilled by her husband's absorption with world problems.

"Running off to the Mediterranean was her way of punishing the President," muses this friend, "but it is more likely to make a marital martyr of him."

Intimates recall too many tender little incidents, howev-



Anderson

er, to believe there could be any serious trouble between the First Couple.

"Where's Jackie?"

On election night in Hyanis Port, as Jack Kennedy was surrounded by the tumult of victory, Jackie strolled off alone. Suddenly he missed her.

"Where's Jackie?" he demanded, and strode off to find her.

The day they moved into the White House, before departing for the glittering inaugural balls, the new President announced to the few friends who were to accompany them: "I want to drink a toast to my wife."

Then he raised his champagne glass to Jackie, radiant in white, and said: "I have never seen you look more beautiful."

Intimates insist Jackie is intensely loyal to her husband, gives him sympathy and understanding during the soul-searching every President must endure.

Yet she never intrudes, rarely visits his office. Only during the Cuban crisis, when the world hung on the brink of a holocaust, did she break her rule and drop by the office once or twice a day. In her own way, she tried to ease the strain.

At least once during the crisis, intimates saw the Pres-

ident leave his desk to walk with her in the garden.

Their marriage may not have been sprinkled entirely with rose petals, say those who should know, but it has become firmly rooted.

CIA Intrigue

The real reason for CIA chief John Richardson's recall from South Viet-Nam was the shocking discovery that he had been reporting to President Diem's ruthless brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, what opponents were saying about the government.

Richardson developed a close relationship with Nhu during Operation Montagnard, a CIA campaign to win over savage mountain tribesmen and turn them against the Communist guerrillas.

Nhu cut red tape and removed obstacles to help the CIA fulfill this and other missions. In turn, Richardson passed on to Nhu information his agents picked up from political opponents of the ruling family.

American Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge was horrified when he learned of this, and arranged for direct orders from Washington stopping the practice.

Lodge and Richardson still couldn't agree, however, on U.S. policy toward the ruling family. Lodge contended that Diem and Nhu are so unpopu-

lar it is hurting the war effort. Richardson insisted there is no alternative but to work with the family.

In the end, Lodge demanded and got Richardson's recall.

Pushup Politics

Oklahoma football coach Bud Wilkinson has told friends he may toss in the towel as director of the President's Council on Physical Fitness because of a disagreement over extolling ex-President Eisenhower.

The quietly sincere Wilkinson wanted the Council to publicize Ike as an example of a man in his 70s who keeps fit by exercising.

The proposal was taken up with White House aide Timothy (Ted) Reardon, who opposed any publicity campaign that would build up Eisenhower.

Wilkinson felt this violated a promise that politics would be kept out of the physical fitness program. This is one reason, Wilkinson told friends, that he may quit the Democratic Party and run for the Senate as a Republican.

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Jack Anderson, substituting for Drew Pearson, will report on Barry Goldwater's private talk with former President Eisenhower over radio WTOP at 6:40 p.m. today.