

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1969

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Nixon

THE WHITE HOUSE

White House police officers will wear new uniforms beginning Friday, September 26.

Changes in the uniforms include gold stripes on the trousers and on the sleeves. A small gold bar will be worn above the sleeve stripe to indicate each five years of service.

Blouses will be individually tailored, and guns will be worn outside the blouses on a garrison belt. The belts have a gold buckle bearing the Presidential coat of arms.

The gold badges, which were redesigned last spring, will be altered slightly to highlight the words "White House Police" against a blue background.

Gold Aiguillettes will be worn on the right shoulder.

Shoulder patches will be changed from white to gold on a black background. The changes in the badges and the shoulder patches have not been completed and the new ones will not be worn immediately.

The hats will remain the same.

The original uniforms for White House police were designed by Mrs. Warren Harding. They were tailored from the same fabric and designed after the uniforms worn at that time by the Cadet Corps at the Naval Academy.

During the ensuing years, the uniform was not significantly altered, and today it retains much of the original design.

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A major addition to the White House Police uniform came on April 16, 1958, when President Eisenhower approved the suggestion that the Presidential coat of arms be worn as a shoulder patch on the uniform.

Reproduced at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

White House Police Uniforms
"Nifty"

57-1
WITH WILSON-NIXON

WASHINGTON (AP)--THE WHITE HOUSE POLICE FORCE INAUGURATED NEW CEREMONIAL UNIFORMS TODAY TO WELCOME THE YEAR'S FIRST WHITE HOUSE VISIT OF A CHIEF OF STATE, BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HAROLD WILSON. PRESS SECRETARY RONALD L. ZIEGLER SAID PRESIDENT NIXON SUGGESTED THE NEW UNIFORMS AFTER SEEING THE CEREMONIAL POLICE DRESS DURING HIS EUROPEAN VISIT LAST YEAR.

THE UNIFORMS HAVE A CREAM-WHITE TUNIC WITH BRASS BUTTONS AND BRAID, BLACK TROUSERS WITH GOLD STRIPES, A BLACK LEATHER GUN BELT AND A BAND LEADER-STYLE HAT TRIMMED WITH BRASS.

THE WHITE HOUSE SAID THEY WERE DESIGNED JOINTLY BY THE SECRET SERVICE AND SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED NEW YORK DESIGNERS.

JA1224PES 1/27

(WHITE HOUSE)

WASHINGTON--THE WHITE HOUSE POLICE HAVE A NIFTY NEW LOOK FOR STATE OCCASIONS, THANKS TO PRESIDENT NIXON.

NIXON, WHO WAS DAZZLED BY THE POMP AND COLORFUL UNIFORMS OF THE FOREIGN GUARDSMEN DURING HIS EUROPEAN TOUR LAST FEBRUARY, CAME HOME AND GAVE ORDERS FOR DRESSY NEW UNIFORMS FOR HIS POLICE PROTECTORS.

THEY WERE DESIGNED BY THE SECRET SERVICE WITH THE HELP OF WASHINGTON TAILOR JIMMIE MUSCATELLO, FORMERLY FROM THE COAL FIELDS OF GARY, W.VA.

THE POLICEMEN WORE THEIR GLITTERING DRESS UNIFORMS FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY WHEN BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HAROLD WILSON WAS WELCOMED CEREMONIALLY ON THE SOUTH LAWN.

THE UNIFORMS INCLUDE A CREAM-WHITE TUNIC TRIMMED WITH GOLD BRAD AND GOLD BUTTONS, CREATING A DOUBLE-BREASTED EFFECT. THE TUNIC HAS A HIGH COLLAR AND THE PRESIDENTIAL EMBLEM ON THE SLEEVE.

THE TUNIC IS WORN WITH THE BLACK PANTS AND GOLD SIDE STRIPE OF THE WHITE HOUSE POLICEMAN'S REGULAR UNIFORM. ALSO SHOWING IS A BLACK GUN BELT AND GUN IN A BLACK-COVERED HOLSTER.

MOST STARTLING IS THE CAP WITH A VISOR, CALLED A SHAK9, WHICH IS MADE OF STIFF PLASTIC AND TRIMMED WITH GOLD.

1/27--EG255PES

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Ziegler and the uniforms

UPI-210

(WHITE HOUSE)

WASHINGTON--WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RONALD ZIEGLER APPEARED A BIT MIFFED, BUT RESPONDED ONCE AGAIN TODAY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW WHITE HOUSE CEREMONIAL UNIFORMS: "SOME PEOPLE DON'T LIKE IVY LEAGUE SUITS."

SOME PEOPLE DON'T LIKE THE NEW UNIFORMS WORN BY WHITE HOUSE POLICEMEN FOR CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS. ADVERSE REACTIONS HAVE COME FROM SEVERAL QUARTERS, INCLUDING CONGRESS, PRIVATE CITIZENS AND EVEN THE GUARDS THEMSELVES.

ZIEGLER SAID "THERE HAS BEEN SOME REACTIN. IN FECT, TR

ZIEGLER SAID "THERE HAS BEEN SOME REACTION." IN FACT, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH MORE ATTENTION THAN THEN WHITE HOUSE PROBABLY WANTED WHEN IT BROUGHT A LITTLE BIT OF OLD EUROPE FASHION TO 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

1/29--DP607P

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Interesting quotes about new
uniforms.

From Iowa, New York and
London

UPI-171

(WHITE HOUSE)

WASHINGTON-- "THAT'S ONE MORE FOREIGN IMPORT WE DON'T NEED,"
REP. H.R. GROSS, R-IOWA, SAID TODAY OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESPLENDENT
NEW UNIFORMS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE POLICE. "WILL THEY BE GOOSE-STEPPING,
OR WHAT?"

"I'D HAVE SURE SAID IT IF LYNDON JOHNSON HAD DONE IT, AND I DON'T
SEE WHY I SHOULD KEEP QUIET JUST BECAUSE IT'S NIXON," THE IRASCIBLE
IOWAN TOLD A REPORTER.

1/28--DP617P

101
WHITE HOUSE GARD

LONDON (AP)-THE NEW CEREMONIAL GARD OF THE WHITE HOUSE POLICE
EVOKED THOUGHTS OF Ruritania IN LONDON TODAY.

UNDER A PICTURE CAPTIONED "ENTER THE CHORUS," THE EVENING
NEWS SAID: "RURITANIA NOW HAS AN OVERSEAS OUTPOST IN WASHINGTON,
D.C. THE WHITE HOUSE GUARDS TURNED OUT LAST NIGHT IN THESE
UNIFORMS, WHICH HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BECAUSE PRESIDENT NIXON
WANTED SOMETHING AS EYE-CATCHING AS HE HAS SEEN ON PALACE GUARDS
ABROAD. IVOR NOVELLO WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO SEE THEM--EVEN
IF HIS CHARACTERS WERE NEVERCOSTUMED BY SMITH AND WESSON."

NOVELLO WAS A PLAYRIGHT-ACTOR-COMPOSER OF POPULAR MUSICALS.
SMITH AND WESSON ARE BEST KNOWN FOR THEIR REVOLVERS. RURITANIA
WAS AN IMAGINARY KINGDOM IN ANTHONY HOPE'S "PRISONER OF ZENDA."

JC23SPES JAN 28

THOSE UNIFORMS

BY ANN HENCKEN

NEW YORK (AP)—THE FLASHY NEW UNIFORMS BESTOWED ON WHITE HOUSE POLICE HAVEN'T MADE A HIT WITH SOME AMERICAN DESIGNERS.

THE WHITE DOUBLE-BREADED TUNIC JACKETS, TRIMMED IN GOLD BRAID, AND THE STIFF SHAKOS (HATS) WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL CREST WERE ORDERED BY PRESIDENT NIXON, DESIGNED BY WASHINGTON TAILOR JIMMIE MUSCATELLO AND MODIFIED BY THE SECRET SERVICE. THE COST FOR THE JACKETS AND HATS WAS \$16,000, NOT COUNTING THE GUN BELTS AND TROUSERS.

THE UNIFORMS WERE FIRST WORN TUESDAY AS THE POLICE FORCE SALUTED PRIME MINISTER HAROLD WILSON OF GREAT BRITAIN.

"THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR GILBERT AND SULLIVAN AT THE WHITE HOUSE," SAID MEN'S FASHION DESIGNER JOHN WEITZ. "IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF GIVING AN AMERICAN IMAGE WHICH IS CONSTRUCTIVE, I DON'T CONSIDER POMPOUS UNIFORMS TO BE WITHIN THE INTEREST OF THE AMERICAN IMAGE.

"WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE THREE OR FOUR AMERICAN DESIGNERS SUBMIT IDEAS? THERE ARE THREE OR FOUR MEN WHO ARE KNOWN ALL OVER THE WORLD AS PRODUCERS OF AMERICAN FASHION. NOW WE HAVE MR. MUSCATELLO," SAID WEITZ.

WHEN STAN HERMAN FOR MR. MONT SAW A PICTURE OF THE UNIFORMS, HE FIRST THOUGHT THEY WERE "GERMAN BUNDESTAG" OR "NEW UNIFORMS FOR THE BRITISH GUARD."

"THEY LOOK POMPOUS 19TH CENTURY RATHER THAN FUNCTIONAL 20TH CENTURY," HE SAID, DESCRIBING THEM AS "A THROWBACK TO THE FIRST NAUGHTY MARIETTA."

CR708P 23

NIXON SEES NEED

White House gets first lady police

Seven District police women have been picked to join the White House police force — the first women to be selected for the 48-year-old force.

The announcement coincided with Women's Liberation Day today. A spokesman for the Secret Service said the hiring of the women was approved by President Nixon.

The women will work primarily with "juveniles and women that come to the attention of the executive protection service. But in the long range, their mission has not been totally resolved, it will take a few months to work that out," a Secret Service official said.

"The women are all in their 20s, and most have college degrees in police science," he said, but added that their names could not be given out because background checks on the women have not been completed.

The women will go thru the same training as men, and will receive the same salary and benefits as the male policemen. Their uniforms are still being designed, and the Secret Service would not comment on what they would look like.

"Women have been assisting us from police departments in the past, and we felt it is time

we had some on our police force," the spokesman said, "There are some places where only women can go."

The women will begin service in two or three weeks, he said.

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Gold Braid War

White House Uniforms Stir Ruritanian Retaliation

By Art Buchwald

PRESIDENT Nixon's decision to dress up the White House police force in Ruritanian dress uniforms with gold braid, black leather belts and black vinyl hats trimmed with gold, has shocked every minor power in the world.

When Prince Rainier heard about it, he said to his lovely wife, Princess Grace, "This means war."

Princess Grace said, "Surely the President of the United States would not be foolhardy enough to start something with us, knowing the size and design of the palace uniforms we have stockpiled in the cellar."

"Look at these photographs of the White House guards. Do you think I'm going to stand by and let him make a fool of me?"

Before Princess Grace could answer the question, the Prince of Liechtenstein telephoned and said, "You've seen them?"

"OF COURSE I've seen them," Prince Rainier exploded.

"Are you ready to retaliate?"

"We've just had a meeting of the joint chiefs of tailors and they have recommended that unless the President withdraws his uniforms in 48 hours, we're going to use solid gold striping on our blue velvet pants."

"My God," said Prince Rainier, "isn't that against the Geneva Convention?"

"Geneva Convention be damned."

The Prince of Liechtenstein said, "When the President put Balkan braid on his White House gatekeepers, the articles of war went out the window. All I want to know is, are you with me?"

"Yes I am," Prince Rainier said. "As a matter of fact we have been working on a top secret uniform which glows at night."

"GOOD GRIEF, Rainier, you're not going to use that to retaliate with?"

"I have no choice. If Nixon tries to destroy our tourist business, he must suffer the consequences. I have to ring off now, the Captain of the Vatican guards is calling."

Prince Rainier pushed a button. "Yes, Captain, I was expecting your call."

The Captain said, "The Vatican is for peace, but I think we must act at once."

"What precautions have you taken?" Rainier said.

"We've put white mink trimming on our vests, lapels and helmets. We've also doubled the silk in our capes."

"Good show, Captain. How are you fixed for patent leather boots?"

"We're low. The French sold all their patent leather to Libya."

"I'LL SEE that you get some," Rainier said.

Princess Grace was beside herself.

"Rainier, there must be a better way than this. Can't you get on the hot line to President Nixon's valet and warn him of what you're going to do?"

"It's too late," Prince Rainier said. "Luxembourg has fired up its sewing machines and will soon have blue piping on everything. San Marino is obligated to go to Luxembourg's aid and provide her with brass buttons. Andorra has escalated the peaks on its caps by three inches, and the Swiss custom inspectors have switched from alpine green to Nelson Eddy-red tunics."

Princess Grace ran to the window. "Rainier, look outside."

"That's our doomsday uniform," Rainier chuckled as he waved to his guards. "It was developed by a top secret defector who was formerly the head doorman at the Loew's State Theater in New York City."

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IRV BRAUNSTEIN, PROP.

OL. 6-2077

Bethesda Custom Tailors

IT'S HERE TODAY

A NEW IDEA FOR

Reprinted from the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum



"No, ma'am. I am not a doorman, a movie usher, nor with the circus. I am (ahem!) a White House policeman . . . No, ma'am. Spiro Agnew did not design our uniforms."

den

and thus should
complaint,
told
rs. Bow-
easily

*W. H. Police + Secret Service
designed uniforms*

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Reproduced at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

WHITE HOUSE POLICE

DATE: September 19, 1969

TO : Lilburn E. Boggs, Assistant Director for
Protective Forces

Via : Vincent P. Mroz, DAD

FROM : Glenard E. Lanier, Major
White House Police

SUBJECT: History of the White House Police Uniform

The following is the information you requested concerning the history of the White House Police uniform:

In 1922 Mrs. Harding arrived at the White House with definite ideas to reorganize the police detail, including a distinctive uniform.

Mrs. Harding designed and patterned the White House Police uniform after the Naval Academy uniform of that day, with gold badges and cap plates. The new uniforms were handsomely tailored from the same fabric used to make the uniforms of the Cadet Corps at the Naval Academy.

During the ensuing years, the uniform was not significantly altered, and today it retains much of the original design.

Until 1940 the weapons carried by the White House Police were concealed beneath the blouses. In December 1940, Treasury Secretary Morgenthau instituted the practice of wearing revolvers on the outside of blouses with Sam Browne belts. In 1946 a decision was made to conceal the revolvers and the Sam Browne belt was eliminated.

A major addition to the White House Police uniform came on April 16, 1958, when President Eisenhower approved the suggestion that the Presidential Coat-of-Arms be worn as a shoulder patch on the uniform.

Since the inception of the Force, the design of the breast badge has been changed in 1940; May 13, 1952; April 29, 1963; and February 18, 1969.

Glenard E. Lanier
Glenard E. Lanier
Major
Commanding Officer
White House Police

GEL:CWH:pjj:per

*Modified old
uniform*



DRAFT NOTICE TO THE PRESS

At the direction of the President, the uniform of the
White House police has been modernized. ^{Some} ~~The~~ changes will
be apparent Friday, September 26.

The most notable change in the uniform will be the presence
of a gold stripe in the trousers. A gold stripe has also been
added to ^{each} ~~the~~ sleeve. Blouses will be individually tailored, and
guns will be worn outside the blouses, on a new garrison belt.

The belts ~~will~~ have a gold buckle bearing the Presidential coat of
arms. Guns have not been displayed since 1946.

The gold badges, which were ^{redesigned} ~~introduced~~ last spring, will be
altered slightly to highlight the words White House Police against
a blue background. Gold aiguillettes will be worn on the right
shoulder. The shoulder patch will also be changed from white to
gold, on a black background. The patch, bearing the Presidential
coat of arms was first introduced in 1958.

The headwear and footwear have not been changed.

Preservation Copy

After nearly a week, a

White House Policewomen

By Marie Smith

Seven policewomen have been hired by the recently established Executive Protection Service for security duty with what was formerly called the White House police force.

Their duties will include protection of the White House, women members of the President's immediate family and their women guests, and women in the official party of visiting heads

of state as well as at diplomatic missions in Washington. They will also assist in interviewing juveniles and women who come to the attention of the Secret Service, and will supervise their custody.

It is the first time that policewomen have been a permanent part of the White House protection service, an EPS spokesman said yesterday.

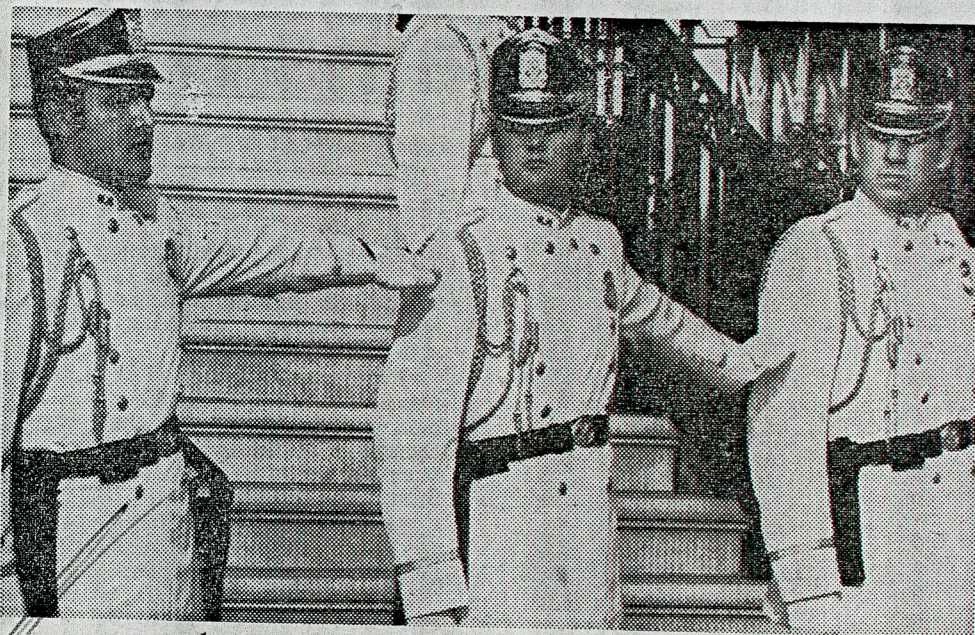
In the past policewomen have been borrowed temporarily for such duty from the Metropolitan Police Department or from the police

force of the city in which members of the First Family were visiting.

The seven women hired are part of the 600-member increase authorized in the EPS to bring it up to the 850-member strength needed for expanded duties of protecting foreign missions and their resident dignitaries as well as the White House.

Women hired must meet the same Civil Service requirements as women on the metropolitan police force, and their starting salary is \$8,500, the same as the metropolitan police.

GRAPHIC SHOW



—Associated Press

White House guards in their flashy new uniforms.

WHITE HOUSE FASHION

Reaction to Uniform Mixed

By DAVID HOLMBERG
Star Staff Writer

The Rev. Channing Phillips is not one of those persons who wants to keep his feelings about the new White House police uniform under his hat.

"A very poor move," he said yesterday of the elaborate white uniforms with the gold buttons and epaulettes and high vinyl hats. "It will be very distracting for a policeman to have to keep telling tourists that he is not the good humor man."

Rep. H. R. Gross, R-Iowa, offered this criticism:

"That's one more foreign import we don't need. Will they be goose-stepping, or what? I'd have sure said it if Lyndon Johnson had done it and I don't see why I should keep quiet just because it's Nixon."

One of the city's prominent architectural critics and cultural bigwigs was a bit more circumspect about his reaction to the new uniform that was unveiled Tuesday after President Nixon took a fancy to similar uniforms in Europe.

"My god, it's weird," he said, "No, don't quote me, for heaven's sake. Call someone who's been fired. I work for that guy (the President)."

Thimbles Down

Most New York fashion designers also turned thimbles down, the Associated Press reported.

The cost for the jackets and hats was \$16,000.

"This is not the time for Gilbert and Sullivan at the White House," said men's fashion designer John Weitz.

When Stan Herman for Mr. Mort saw a picture of the uniforms, he first thought they were "German Bundestag" or "new uniforms for the British guard."

Norman Norell didn't mind the hats or the white jackets, but "They'd look more American if they didn't have the gold braid."

Geoffrey Beene said, "The uniforms were a little hard, a little Prussian, a little Storm Trooper . . . I don't think

they're appropriate."

"A bit showy," said Bill Blass.

Pauline Trigere was more in favor of the new uniforms. "I think they're rather dashing, don't you?" she said.

"Maybe, for Ceremony"

Some area policemen also were hedging on the new uniforms. Some declined to comment on it, others hadn't seen it, and a secretary at the D.C. Council on the Arts said, "Gosh, it looks kind of Fascist, doesn't it? This administration, although a number of men in the traditional blue said they liked it. 'Well, maybe it's appropriate for ceremony,' a Park Police officer said. 'Maybe you could use it for that, but not for anything else.'"

But the White House stood firmly behind the new uniforms. Ronald Ziegler, the President's press secretary, said at a news conference today that the President likes them and feels they will "add to the dignity of the occasion" in receptions for visiting heads of state.

Along with Phillips, perennial critic Julius Hobson was one of the few persons around town who would let his name be linked with anti-uniform sentiments.

"I think it's typical of the Fascist mentality of this administration to emphasize physical power and pageantry.

. . . Nixon thinks he's some kind of king. And what kind of men would want to wear a uniform like this? Being a policeman in this country is an honorable profession. Why should they want to stand around looking like a goddamn monkey?"

Approval

A sergeant in the Fairfax City Police Department didn't think the uniform would taint the professionalism of his White House colleagues.

"I think it's very distinguished and good-looking," he said. "It's about time they did something nice for them. It gives a little better atmosphere than just the plain old blue uniform."

phere than just the plain old blue uniform."

A captain in the Capitol police who said he'd seen the outfit in the designing stages, and liked it, had a practical concern.

"It's going to get dirty," he said.

Out in Prince Georges County, a police major who wasn't aware the uniform is designed only for ceremonial occasions was upset about the costume's visibility "if you have a riot or a revolt."

"I daresay you'd be the first man shot if you were wearing that," he said. He said it was "okay as a parade-type uniform."

Little Reaction

At Metropolitan police headquarters, observers reported little reaction to the new uniform, and the FBI wasn't commenting on "another agency's uniforms." But a spokesman for the International Association of Police Chiefs seemed to sum up the polarization on the issue:

"Some of us here love it," he said, "and some of us don't think much of it at all."

Youth Shot In Stakeout At Grocery

A 17-year-old suspect in the attempted holdup of a Safeway Store at 2011 S St. NW yesterday was shot and critically wounded by one of two police officers staked out in the store.

The youth, identified as Gregory Gilliam of the block of Brightseat Road, Arden, Md., was taken to George Washington University Hospital.

A second suspect, Lake, 18, of the Street SE, charged.

**"Well, Let's Run It Up Pennsylvania Avenue
And See If Anybody Salutes"**



NIXON'S CEREMONIAL GUARDS ABANDON PRUSSIAN-TYPE HAT

President Nixon's ceremonial guard unit has abandoned its Prussian-style hats, but will keep the white jackets.

The White House said today the black vinyl helmets will be permanently stored as a concession to widespread criticism and ridicule from persons who said they made the unit look like a palace guard of toy soldiers.

The guard, made up of men of the White House police, will continue to wear the dress uniform with white tunic, gold braid, buttons and badges. But they will wear their old-style regular blue caps with a white cover to match the rest of the uniform when French President Georges Pompidou visits the White House on Tuesday.

not to "drop to the bottom of the well," he said.

He hint., D.N.C. ably will readme

BRICKS, ROCKS and bottles at police officers who



Attenshun . . .

White house unit drops fancy hats

President Nixon's new ceremonial guard unit has abandoned its Prussian-style hats, but will keep the fancy white jackets.

The White House said today the black, vinyl helmets will be permanently stored as a concession to widespread criticism and ridicule from persons who said they made the unit look like a palace guard of toy soldiers.

The guard, made up of men of the White House police, will continue to wear the dress uniform with white tunic, gold braid, buttons and badges. But they will wear their old style regular blue caps with a white cover to match the rest of the uniform when French President Georges Pompidou visits the White House Tuesday.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1970

White House Police Losing 'Palace-Guard' Headgear



Associated Press

White House policemen wear regular duty cap and, at right, the ceremonial headwear that is to be dropped from use.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (UPI) — Those Prussian-style helmets that helped give White House policemen a new "palace guard" look have been scrapped.

The White House said today that the policemen complained the hats were too tight and uncomfortable. Privately, some of the guards indicated that their discomfort also came from the snickers that greeted the unveiling of their new ceremonial uniforms late last month.

The high-peaked, black vinyl helmets, which cost \$10 apiece for the 100 policemen wearing them, will be replaced by regulation blue caps with white slipcovers when the new uniforms are worn for the second time next Tuesday, for the visit of President Pompidou of France.

Preservation Copy

to an... 10-year-old Eve Berger. His short prepared address



The Washington Post

On With the Old and Off With the New

White House policeman (left) wears regular-issue cap with white dress cover which has replaced the more exotic but widely criticized black vinyl helmet worn for the

visit of British Prime Minister Harold Wilson. Tunics were unchanged. Honor guard was on hand yesterday for the arrival of French President Pompidou.

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U.S. KEROBLOCK

Letters to The Editor

The New Uniforms at the White House

The new uniforms of the Royal Ruritanian Foot Grenadiers, alias the White House Police, are a pretty direct crib from those of the *gardeiskaia pekhot* of His (late) Imperial Majesty Nikolai Aleksandrovich, Emperor of Russia. So does one now address the head of the White House Police as "*Vashe vysokoblagorodie*" (your high well-bornness) or "*Vashe prevoskhoditel'stvo*" (your excellency)? There's an important difference there, and it is incumbent upon us groundlings to learn how to deal with all the *Hofleute* we seem to be accumulating. I mean, after all, you can't expect a mere *Kammerjunker* to be dealt with on the same footing as a *Herr Geheimrat*.

Would it not be better to remember the words of James Buchanan, then Minister to England, who reported his compliance with Secretary of State Marcy's orders to give up diplomatic fancy dress by writing, "I have never felt prouder, as a citizen of my country, than when I stood amidst the brilliant circle of foreign ministers and other court dignitaries in the simple dress of an American citizen." Of course, that was 1854, an awfully long time ago.

ROBERT V. ALLEN.

Washington.

What a masterpiece of timing! The same day he sends the HEW bill back to Congress with his veto he unveils the new uniforms of the "palace guards." Inflation—ha.

ROBERT S. WILLIAMS JR.

Chevy Chase

It is common knowledge that our Number One Sports Fan would rather have made All-American than be President. But we didn't know he had a yen to be Rupert of Hentzau. An evening at the White House should be enchanting with 100 Student Princes banging mugs as they sing the stirring Stein Song.

Actually it's all rather fun in this troubled world, except that \$9,500 would buy many textbooks for the sick schools of the District of Columbia.

HELEN F. HALL.

Alexandria.

Whatever else may be said of the Graustarkian costumes newly imposed on the White House's palace guard, they are clearly inflationary.

It is not merely the first cost that threatens the nation's precarious budget, already terribly burdened by health, education and welfare. Now every one of the 32 Republican governors will have to follow their courageous leader's example. Every statehouse will flower, each with its own colors and special flourishes. As for the city halls watch Sam Yorty.

Eggshell white may do for the present, but we shall progress inexorably, step by step, to imperial purple—as in Rome after the republic had been cast down. Will the trappings of monarchy be enough, or shall we move toward the substance? Gradually, of course. As a beginning, the presidency could be handed down not from father to son, but from father-in-law to son-in-law. Ah well, times do change.

VIRGINIA M. WORMALD.

Washington.

The substantially archaic thrust of the Nixon administration is now on record in many areas. So the archaic pattern of the new White House police uniform is sad, but not surprising.

That the President would have taken time out from his massive and important schedule to consider even momentarily these "dress up" uniforms for the White House policemen is most unfortunate. They have nothing to do with the 20th century, with the White House or with America. They will be endless comic reminders of old Shubert productions of "The Chocolate Soldier." They will be endless sad reminders of Hitler and Count Ciano and General Trujillo. And they will be a source of endless demeaning embarrassment to the men forced to wear them.

The nation needs programs and principles and progress a lot more than it needs this kind of antique panoply.

HARRY MUHEIM.

Silver Spring.

Until spreading out your front page the other morning I wasn't too concerned about Mr. Nixon's infatuation with football games: perhaps it even sublimated energies that

might otherwise have been misspent in expressing vexations better left to Spiro Agnew. But now it appears we are getting feedback from the TV screen, in the form of the new White House guard uniform. It needs only a red feather in the helmet to reproduce a bowl game halftime show. (Will the chief guard carry a baton?) Or perhaps the President is yearning for the pomp and ceremony of European courts. I suspect it is a combination of the two, and so I should like to propose that the guard force be officially renamed the Vatican Tackles.

JOHN S. JORDAN JR.

Washington.

How nice that at the same time our President is vetoing funds for education and the fight against poverty, he is dressing the White House police in new uniforms at a cost of \$9,500. It is good to know that a pompous display will continue in the White House, even in the face of ignorance and malnutrition in the rest of the nation.

MARCIA GELPE.

Washington.

I suspect you'll receive a lot of letters *complaining* about those Student Prince costumes for the White House Guards. But, in my opinion, one shouldn't criticize! After all, since the President was so impressed with European outfits and ways, it might be fun to go monarchy all the way. We could change his title, and he could even have a real crown—handcrafted by some of the currently unemployed, whose services could be utilized in stitching up those marvelous uniforms. (There opens up a whole new vista of allied court activities and consequent job opportunities.)

Funds for such fantastic frivolities should be readily available—just look at the sums recently rescued by the veto of the HEW bill. And, after all—what price glory?

BETTY FAIRCHILD.

Silver Spring.

President Nixon must have hit a new high (low?) for presidential follies in the new uniforms. Where do we begin the catalogue?

The timing is wretched—the unnecessary expenditures revealed immediately after the veto of the “inflationary” HEW appropriations bill. The uniforms are an offense to the eye—the belt and pistols marring the lines of the jacket; the silly caps. All this in the “best” operetta tradition. How the men must hate them. To say nothing of the aroma of militarism that seems more pronounced than when the men wore their old uniforms.

Let's hope the President will retire the new ones, sell them as surplus to some high school marching bands, and take the loss as a necessary evil. Maybe we can forgive him the money, but not the ludicrous notion that should have died a-borning.

EUNICE GRAHAM.

Takoma Park.

It was intriguing to see the new South American dictatorship look of the “palace guard” at the White House. We hope Mr. Nixon was able to impress the visiting head of state from the Mother Country with the grandeur and style of our form of government.

If Mr. Nixon continues to exercise such “inflation control” we can expect the educational system to be asked, regretfully, to close up shop altogether in order to keep the presidential trappings in gold braid.

MARY C. NEUMAN.

Annapolis.

Fortunately for Washington visitors with a myopic eye for traditional military dress, the White House Palace Guard is currently attired in regalia which would be appropriate for the illegitimate offspring of a runaway toy soldier from the IceCapades and the youngest daughter of a banana republic dictator.

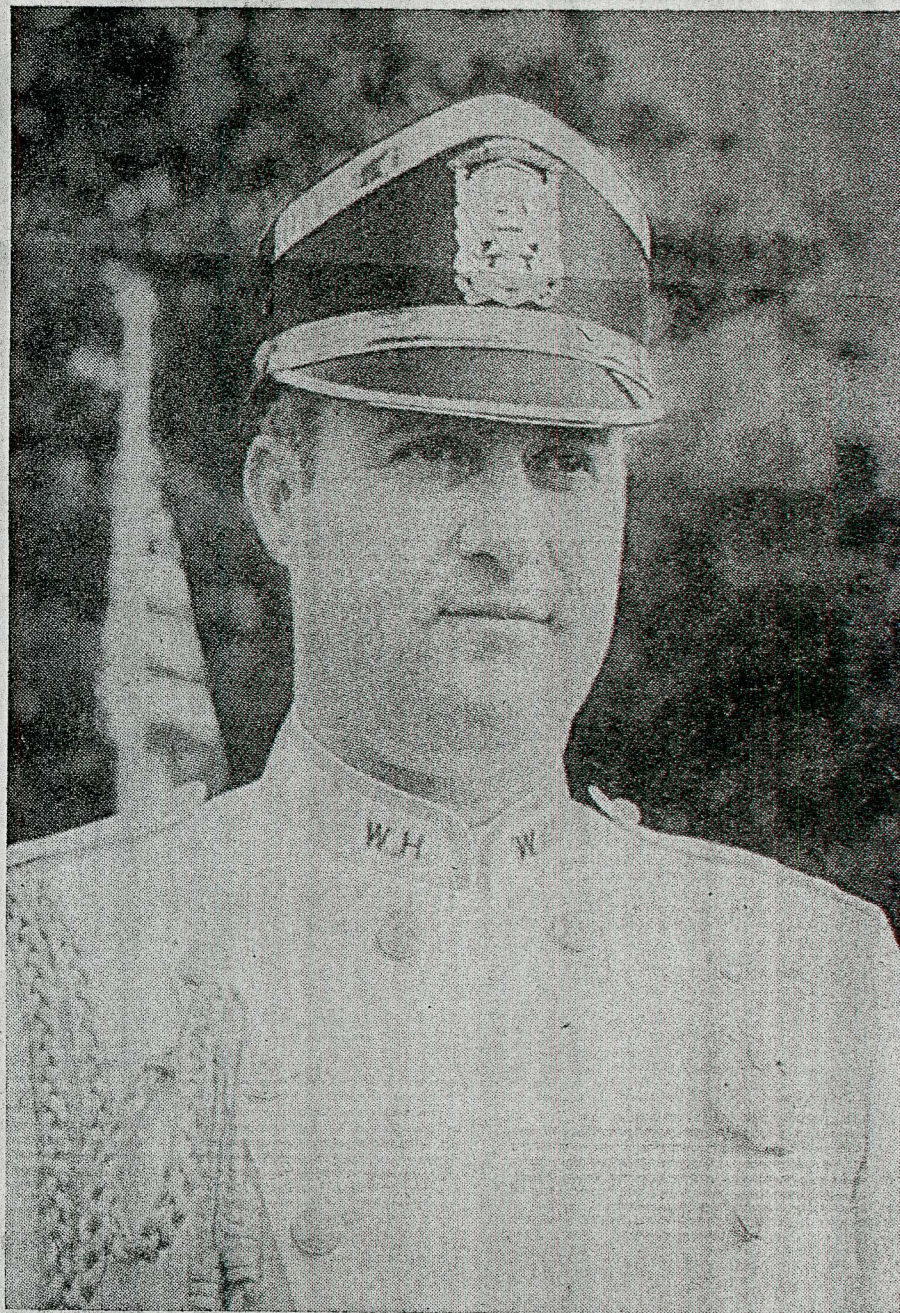
It has been reported that the nation's Number One football fan, possibly inspired during a halftime performance by a high school drum major, lent his hand in designing this vinyl and elastic melange. The stain-resistant, starling-proof vinyl chapeau resembles the one used by Mickey Mouse in the 1938 production of “Fantasia.”

Wouldn't this have been an excellent opportunity for the White House to dispense with rhetoric and keep 9,500 inflationary dollars out of the economy?

MICHAEL P. ZELL.

Washington.

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AND NOW, IN GLORIOUS COLOR . . .

Washington finally has a controversy on which you can take a side without getting caught in a deep ideological discussion. It concerns the new ceremonial uniforms of the White House police force, shown here in an official photo, and the issue is simple: Are they handsome or are they hideous?