

Another of Lady Bird's Guests Tees Off on LBJ

By WILLIAM GREIDER
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Maybe President Johnson should pay more attention to the people Lady Bird is inviting to lunch.

Everyone remembers about Eartha Kitt and the verbal brickbats she threw at LBJ last month when Mrs. Johnson held a ladies' luncheon on the crime problem.

Well, now it develops that another guest at the same luncheon—in fact, one of the featured speakers—also has some harsh words for the Great Society.

She is Mrs. Margaret Moore of Indianapolis, one of three speakers at Mrs. Johnson's Jan. 19 luncheon on "What Citizens Can Do to Help Insure Safe Streets."

'Never Had it so Scared'

Mrs. Moore didn't attack the President at the luncheon. But she is the co-author of a new book that holds him personally responsible for the crime his wife is trying to combat.

"They call it the Great Society, but Crime Society would be more like it. We never had it so scared."

That is the advertising plug for Mrs. Moore's book in the current issue of Human Events, a right-wing news weekly which attacks the President with great consistency.

Mrs. Moore and her son-in-law, M. Stanton Evans, editor of The Indianapolis News, together have written "The Lawbreakers," selected as book-of-the-month by the Conservative Book Club.

"The Lawbreakers" wasn't yet available at major Washington bookstores yesterday, but here is what the ad promises:

"Now—the first book that documents the connection between Liberalism and America's crime crisis. . . . This new book proves what many Americans have long felt—that the crime explosion grows directly out of Liberalism. Under Kennedy and Johnson, crime has grown almost seven times faster than the population. . . . Even LBJ admits that crime is now costing \$27 billion a year."

'Real Causes' Noted

According to the advertisement, the book is loaded with nuggets about "the real causes of increasing crime." It says:

"The Liberals dare not face up to

them—because failure lies, stinking, at their doorstep. M. Stanton Evans and Margaret Moore have no such inhibitions. They see the rise in crime as a breakdown in morals, and they spell out, in damning factual detail, how the Liberals have led the assault on our traditional values."

The "damning factual detail" deals with such things as "government poverty workers who actually scheme to keep their 'clients' from taking jobs in private industry" and "the materialist factor. Official deep-thinkers blame both poverty and affluence for crime, evade the moral dimension. LBJ's crime commission stoutly ignores religious influence on behavior."

'Not Margaret Moore!'

By coincidence, Mrs. Moore's book was published on the same day she had lunch with Lady Bird. But in her White House speech, the author didn't dwell on anti-LBJ themes—and she soft-pedaled them in a telephone interview.

When a member of Mrs. Johnson's staff was told about the book, she gasped: "Not Margaret Moore!"

No other comment was immediately available from the White House.

Mrs. Moore herself, reached by phone in Indianapolis, where she works for her son-in-law's newspaper, did not see any conflict between the book and her White House invitation.

She sat next to Lady Bird at the luncheon, "a real place of honor," she said. Mrs. Moore's speech was about the importance of citizen involvement and how she helped organize women in Indianapolis to fight crime.

"When I make speeches," she said, "I don't do adverse criticism at all. The book is of a positive nature. It points out positive things to do."

'Basic Cause Not Poverty'

What about "the Crime Society" mentioned in the ad?

"I don't know what the ad says," Mrs. Moore said. "The book points out that the basic cause of crime is not poverty as so many of us have been led to believe—that if we pour billions and billions of dollars into poverty areas it will reduce crime. This has not been borne out."

The answer to crime, she said, lies in personal responsibility and self-help among the poor, not more government programs.

"We have found that as we continue to give and give and give, this doesn't instill pride in people," Mrs. Moore said. "They just hold out their hand and ask for more."

That's not exactly a ringing endorsement of the Great Society, but Mrs. Moore said she received a nice letter the other day from Mrs. Johnson, thanking her for the luncheon speech and discussing future action against crime. Mrs. Moore will return to the capital next month to address a luncheon of women leaders on the same problem.

She's Been Invited Back

"I've been invited back to Washington," she said coyly. "I don't believe Eartha Kitt has."

According to Mrs. Moore, fighting crime is a nonpartisan problem which Republicans and Democrats alike should tackle. But, if the ad in Human Events is anywhere near accurate, her new book should provide good campaign fodder—against guess whom.

The ad says:

"The American people don't need to be told that terror stalks their neighborhoods . . . but what they do need to be shown—over and over again between now and next November—is the connection between Liberalism and this terror."

Lady Bird Cut to The Bone

Hears Sympathy From Country

By ISABELLE SHELTON
Star Staff Writer

The controversy touched off by entertainer Eartha Kitt's emotional outburst at the White House Thursday continued to bubble briskly yesterday.

Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, against whom the singer had directed an angry tirade during a White House luncheon called to discuss crime in the streets, expressed regret that "the good constructive things which the speakers on the panel said were not heard—only the shrill voice of anger and discord."

The speakers had made proposals "that would have been useful suggestions to any women's group in any city, and I believe they wanted to know about them" the First Lady said in a formal statement issued by her press secretary, Elizabeth Carpenter.

Some of the suggestions, Mrs. Johnson said, included "an organized effort to get surveys of adequate lighting in cities, of working toward volunteer attention to school dropouts, of publication of brief pamphlets outlining the laws to teen-agers in underprivileged neighborhoods, and organization of block mothers to assist in fighting crime."

An unrepentant Miss Kitt, interviewed by reporters upon her return to Los Angeles yesterday, said she had no regret, that she would do it over again.

Her charge that the Vietnam war is causing American youth to riot in the streets and smoke marijuana were spoken from the heart, and "I think I am speaking for millions of Americans across the country and the world," she said.

She spoke up at the White House, she said, because she did not think any of the previous speakers had "reached the crux of the matter—the link between the war and crime at home."

"They talked about flowers down the streets of America and making bigger and heavier street lights, which is all well and good—I'm not against that—but I'm quite sure it doesn't squelch juvenile delinquency in any way," she said.

Actually, there was almost no mention of flower planting at the White House luncheon.

Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King yesterday came to the support of Miss Kitt's emotional outburst, which he said "described the feelings of many persons."

So did Rep. Robett Kastenmeier, D-Wis., who said Miss Kitt spoke up at "the right time in the right place," and "brought a fresher viewpoint

and one closer to the causes of unrest in ghettos."

Rep. George E. Brown, Jr., an outspoken Vietnam dove, said he shared the singer's views, but thought it was "the wrong time and the wrong place" to express them. "As many times as I have been to the White House, I would not dream of doing that."

Comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory showed up outside the White House yesterday where about 30 members of "Women Strike for Peace" carried signs supporting Miss Kitt.

But the great preponderance of recorded public sentiment seemed to be on the side of Mrs. Johnson.

The White House was flooded with phone calls and telegrams all day yesterday, from all across the country, all favorable to Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Carpenter reported.

Television station WTOP announced it was swamped with phone calls from viewers, the great majority supporting the First Lady, after it showed an interview with Miss Kitt.

The President's pastor at National City Christian Church here, the Rev. George R. Davis, was one of the first to wire the White House his support. He said in part:

"I feel compelled to apologize for any member of that (human) family, including the Negroes, when someone is ill-mannered, arrogant and stupid."

Meanwhile Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who knows what it's like to be assaulted on Vietnam, chose yesterday to present the First Lady a "Book of Friendship" for her active support of diplomacy.

At a ceremony in the State Department attended by the President (who missed the presentation but arrived in time for tea), Rusk said the book "symbolizes our deep appreciation for the dedication of Mrs. Johnson to peace among nations."

"As a guest in many lands, as hostess to many visitors from all over the world at the White House, and in her daily efforts to make the world a more decent and tranquil place for the family of man, she portrays the best that is in us as a people and as a nation."

The loose leaf volume, which Rusk called "a unique book for a unique woman," contains a page for each country, on which is printed the nation's Coat of Arms, Flag and heraldic interpretation. It has been in the making at State for months, Rusk said.

Thanking the Secretary, Mrs. Johnson said she would "treasure it always."



—United Press International

Mrs. Lyndon Johnson receives a presidential kiss after she was presented a "Book of Friendship" at the State Department.

Lady Bird

Eartha Kitt Denounces War Policy to Mrs. Johnson

United Press International

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—
Eartha Kitt, the singer, stunned other guests at a White House luncheon today when she angrily told Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson that American youth was rebelling because of the Vietnam war.

About 50 white and Negro women invited to the White House to discuss President Johnson's proposals to combat crime in the streets sat at their table in silence as Miss Kitt, a Negro, delivered a tirade against the war and high taxes.

"You send the best of this country off to be shot and maimed," she said. "They rebel in the street. They will take pot and they will get high. They don't want to go to school because they're going to be snatched off from their mothers to be shot in Vietnam."

A pale Mrs. Johnson later rose and looked directly at Miss Kitt, who leaned against a podium in the yellow walled Family Dining Room.

"Because there is a war on—and I pray that there will be a just and honest peace—that still doesn't give us a free ticket not to try to work for better things such as against crime in the streets, better education and better health for our people," Mrs.



United Press International

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson and Eartha Kitt at the White House luncheon yesterday shortly before Miss Kitt's outburst. The singer denounced the Administration's Vietnam policy.

Johnson said, her voice trembling and tears welling in her eyes.

Before Mrs. Johnson's response, however, Mrs. Richard J. Hughes, wife of the Democratic Governor of New Jersey, broke the silence following Miss Kitt's remarks. "I feel morally obligated," Mrs. Hughes said, "May I

speaking in defense of the war?"

She said that her first husband had been killed in World War II and that she had eight sons.

"None wants to go to Vietnam but all will go, they and their friends," she said.

Mrs. Hughes said that none of her children smoked marijuana and that youths were

not rebelling because of the war. The other guests applauded. Miss Kitt, who has one child, a 5-year-old daughter, stared at her with arms folded.

After the luncheon, Mrs. Johnson remarked with a little laugh, "I do want to

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EARTHA KITT HITS U.S. WAR POLICY

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say this has been a lively meeting with lots of ideas."

Miss Kitt, who was born in poverty 39 years ago in North, S. C., and made a fortune in the movies and Broadway shows, said to newsmen later:

"I see nothing wrong with the way I handled myself. I can only hope it will do some good."

Of the First Lady, she said:

"I'm afraid she became a little flustered. She made a very nice little speech. The fact that Mrs. Johnson wants to put flowers along the driveways and trees up and down the boulevards can make a very attractive city, but that is not going to do very much good when it comes to solving the problem of juvenile delinquency."

Miss Kitt, her eyes flashing while she puffed on a cigarette and jabbed a finger at her startled audience, said that American youth were "angry because their parents are angry, because there is a war going on that they don't understand, that they don't know why."

She said that youngsters felt alienated because "they can't get to you [Mrs. Johnson] and they can't get to the President, and so they rebel in the streets."

With two Secret Service agents watching from a doorway leading to the State Dining Room, Mrs. Johnson, clasping her hands, replied that "violence will not solve all the problems."

The President made a surprise appearance at the luncheon to join his wife's appeal for female leadership in the fight against crime, but he was gone when Miss Kitt rose in a white sweater dress to challenge Mrs. Johnson.

While he was in the room, however, Miss Kitt stood up and asked him, "What do you think about delinquent parents, parents who can't spend time with their children?"

President Replies

The President, taken aback by the unexpected question, said that day care centers had been established under Social Security legislation and added, "I think it would be a good idea if you would ask the women and then tell me what you think."

He left soon afterward.

A panel discussion then resumed on "What Citizens Can Do to Insure Safe Streets."

The speakers were Miss Katherine Peden of Hopkinsville, Ky., a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders; Mrs. Charles Cope, a member of Volunteers in Service to America at Atlanta, and Mrs. Margaret Moore, who led a female anticrime crusade in Indianapolis.

Miss Kitt rose during a question-and-answer period afterward and apologized for speaking up if she offended the President and his wife.

But, she said, turning to the other guests, "I have to say what is in my heart."

She said she had not walked the streets of ghettos as crusaders as the other guests had, but "I have live in the gutters."

"I'm sorry," Mrs. Johnson replied. "I cannot understand the things that you do. I have not lived with the background that you have. I cannot speak as passionately or as well as you. But I think we have made advances in these things and we will do more."

Miss Kitt said she thought that the speakers had "missed out on something" that she had learned while working in the racially troubled Watts section of Los Angeles.

"The main reason for juvenile delinquency today is because their parents are angry and their parents are angry because they are so highly taxed and because there is a war going on they do not understand," the singer said.