

# Rumors Fly at Party: Who's The Next Defense Secretary?

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Could it be the next Secretary of Defense will be the office's present incumbent, Thomas S. Gates? And his deputy possibly Roswell L. Gilpatric, one of the choices recently speculated upon as contender for the top Defense post in the Kennedy administration?

Cabinet-guessing—Washington's current and feverish party pastime—continued at a merry pace last night at the gala reception given by the Assistant Secretary of Defense and Mrs. Perkins McGuire at the Sulgrave Club.

Speculation last night was so rampant on "who the next Secretary of Defense will be" that at this stage of the game, anybody's guess might win.

Actually Secretary Gates, who attended the party with Mrs. Gates, had no definite comment to make on his future plans. About one thing he was definite, however. With a broad grin he declared, "I'm turning in my

resignation—on January 20, and take a long vacation." After that, he said "I don't know what I'm going to do—maybe go back to banking."

## New Rumor Flips

Toward the end of the party after the Gates' had left, a new rumor flew the rounds that Mr. Gates would be—in fact had been asked to stay on as Defense Secretary.

If he does stay on, commented one guest, he'd be a good choice because "he's popular on both sides of the aisle."

Earlier during the two-hour party, Mr. Gilpatric's name was frequently mentioned as the candidate for the top Defense job by several guests prominent in official life or closely associated with it. One report has it that he was the choice after former Defense Secretary Robert Lovett turned down an offer to take it. One official put it more tersely: "It's definitely Gilpatric."

But as the party grew so did the rumors. Mr. Gilpatric, former Undersecretary of the Air Force in the Truman administration, led the field of educated guesses. But other possibilities mentioned included Frank Pace, former Secretary of the Army in the Truman administration, and Robert (Whizzer) White, of Colorado.

## McGuire Not Leaving

Mr. and Mrs. McGuire's friends were glad to hear this was not their "farewell" party. With so many administration officials leaving Washington, it was happy news to learn the McGuires are remaining here.

Practically everyone from diplomatic, official and residential society turned out for the reception which had all the ingredients of a good party—danceable music by a three-piece orchestra, delicious food and interesting conversation.

There from the White House were the Homer Gruenthers, Bob Gray, the Earl Chesneys, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Morgan, the Bryce Harlows and Mrs. Mary Jane McCaffree.

There was also a warm welcome for former Defense Secretary and Mrs. Neil H. McElroy, here, for the Business Advisory Council dinner which he was going on to

brate daughter Betsy's birthday at a family dinner at the 1925 F street Club.

The Lewis Strausses, Senator and Mrs. Everett Dirksen, Italian Ambassador Brosio, Viet Nam Ambassador Tran Van Chuong, CIA Director Allen Dulles, Deputy CIA Director and Mrs. Charles P. Cabell, Mrs. Rose Zalles, Mrs. Donald A. Quarles, and the Defense Department's director of Research and Engineering and Mrs. Herbert York were also among the partygoers.

## Slimmer Dr. York

For Dr. York it was his first party appearance since suffering a heart attack four months ago. He was happily receiving compliments on his new trim figure—the result of dieting off 38 pounds!

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Baldrige, proud of their daughter Tish's selection as Mrs. Kennedy's White House social secretary, were also there. Mr. Baldrige said their daughter is now in New York straightening out details on publication of her second book, but will be back in Washington shortly before the Christmas holidays.

For Deputy Defense Douglas the party marked the end of a varied day, during which he received in behalf of the Defense Department Life Magazine's entire collection of art from World War II. Mr. Henry R. Luce, editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., made the presentation to Mr. Douglas, and later on in the day was host at his own party celebrating the event at the Mayflower Hotel.

Mr. Douglas had high praise for the collection of some 1,050 works by 54 artists who covered all theaters of the war. He said representative works from the collection will be hung in a corridor of the Pentagon which "is a veritable art gallery."