Bush drops in on holiday party

By KAREN FELD

President Bush, just back from the Malta summit, surprised Father Christmas, popular consultant Roy Pfautch, when he dropped by his annual Christmas dinner at the J.W. Marriott the other evening. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter, back from a visit to Poland, recited " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas."

South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond, who was celebrating his 87th birthday, and Canadian Ambassador Derek Burney sat on Santa's knee. Santa was later revealed to be Commerce Secretary Bob Mosbacher.

Santa called up three Democratic congressmen: Norm Mineta, Al Swift and Dale Kildee. "You'll have your day, but not soon, we hope," he told them as he gave them each a miniature model of the White House.

"Is this as close as we're gonna get to the White House?" Mineta asked Santa.

"You plant that, and it will grow," Santa Mosbacher assured him.

It wasn't President Bush's Navy experience that prevented him from getting seasick in the stormy summit seas off Malta.



Bush

The president, Secretary of State Jim Baker, and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft all wore motion-ickness patches behind their ears.

The patches slowly release scopolamine to prevent nausea while tossing around in 60 mph winds.

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House GOP Whip Newt Gingrich inspired fellow conservatives at the Conservative Leadership Conference at the Omni Shoreham the other day.

He told them not to worry about criticizing the president or other politicos. Instead they should aggressively seek free media time. "Any of you who have failed to get on a radio show this week have failed the conservative movement."

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