

CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

BY KAREN FELD

'Tis the season for Christmas cheer, protocol aside—such as Sen. Ted Kennedy dressed up as half of the lip-synching duet Milli Vanilli for his office bash, and trim Second Lady Marilyn Quayle costumed so convincingly as a rotund Santa and speaking in a voice so deep that she fooled even the most sharp-eyed pundits who couldn't guess the identity of this year's jolly old elf at clergyman/lobbyist/entrepreneur Roy Pfautch's holiday dinner at the J.W. Marriott.

White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, who amused the guests at Roy Pfautch's dinner with *The Christmas Story* according to St. John, sat next to Sally Atwater. Her husband, Lee, the Republican party Chairman, although immobile from the effects of a brain tumor, is spending about four hours a day dictating his memoirs. Sally drew a standing ovation from the crowd when she was called to sit on Santa's knee.

On a lighter note Santa's helpers—Nancy Sununu, Ursula Meese, Eva Kasten, Carol Laxalt, Sue Block, Bonnie Derwinski, Jayne Ikard, Buffy Cafritz, Betty Ourisman, Penny Durenberger—belted out a rendition of "Six More Years" to the tune of "Jingle Bells." And House Republican Leader Bob Michel, dressed in a terry robe and red night cap, recited "Twas the Night before Christmas."

Guests—including Defense Sec. Dick Cheney and his wife Lynne, NBC's Andrea Mitchell with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, USA Today publisher Cathy Black, House GOP leader Bob Michel, Sens. Bob Kasten and John Warner, former White House counsel Fred Fielding, former GOP chairman Frank Fahrenkoph, former Attorney General Ed Meese, and Somerset developer Hermen Greenberg and his wife, Monica—at Joe and Tricia Canzeri's annual Christmas

celebration at Leonardo da Vinci in Washington Harbour couldn't help but wonder if there was any significance to the fortune inside the cookies given as favors: "Always forgive your enemies...nothing annoys them more." Could he possibly be referring to our Vice President? Canzeri, you recall, was the designated vice presidential handler before Quayle was nominated, and he had some rather candid and unfavorable remarks to make about Quayle to Jack Germond and Jules Witcover for their book, "Whose Broad Stripes and Bright Stars?" Or were the cookies just in keeping with the theme of the evening, a glimpse of the future? Guests lined up to have their aura, palms and tarot cards read. But even the seers couldn't predict who would fill the job of Republican party chairman and other vacancies. But rumors were flying: Former Texas Rep. Tom Loeffler for party Chairman? Or Transportation Secretary Sam Skinner? Or political operative Rich Bond?

Former White House counsel Fred Fielding chose not to have his palm read. It's not that high-powered lawyers don't believe in such things. It's just that Fred says he's missing one very important line. He doesn't know if it's the heart line or the life line, but it throws the readers off.

FDIC Chairman Bill Seidman sounding like one of Scrooges ghosts warned of low bank reserves as he sat most of the evening locked in conversation with Rep. Guy Vander Jagt, who said his recent race to hold the chairmanship of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee is the toughest he's ever had.

These are the "Capital Connections."

COPYRIGHT 1990 KAREN FELD

December 17, 1990

What have you heard? What do you know that someone wishes you didn't? Call Karen Feld at (202) 337-2044.