KAREN On Friday

Nancy Reagan's manicurist, **Jessica Vartoughian**, isn't taking any chances. She won't clip and polish nails of a client with AIDS. **Paul Jasperson** went into Jessica's Beverly Hills nail salon, announced that he had AIDS, and requested a pedicure. After she declined to deal with his toes, he served Jessica with an AIDS discrimination complaint. Arraignment is scheduled Monday. Jessica, who frequently goes to the Santa Barbara ranch to polish Mrs. Reagan's nails, and to the White House on occasion, referred calls to her attorney, who says his client doesn't want him to talk about it. The lawyer, **Joe Copeland**, preferred to talk about his law school days in Tennessee with **Howard Baker**. (Almost nobody in Tennessee in those days would have submitted to a pedicure.) Jessica may find time to polish the first lady's nails before New Year's Eve weekend when **the Reagans**, **Paul Laxalts**, **Charlie Wicks** and **Earl Jorgensons** will once more toast the New Year at the home of old friends **Walter** and **Lee Annenberg** in Palm Springs.

Don Regan, a former chairman of Merrill Lynch, helped **Larry Speakes** get his job there, according to insiders who say the acting White House press secretary will make a quarter of a million dollars. Pals say Chief of Staff Regan had a special interest in Larry's future, and now he wants to hand-pick his replacement. Mr. Regan's choice, most say, is **Ann Dore McLaughlin**, undersecretary of the Interior, who was his press secretary when he was secretary of the Treasury. Her husband, **John**, is the impresario of television's most celebrated food fight, and he never says a bad word about the White House.

Everybody in town has a list of favorites, and here's the rest of mine: **Sheila Tate**, Mrs. Reagan's former press secretary, now a public-relations consultant at Burson-Marsteller; **Margaret Tutwiler**, top aide and press secretary to Treasury Secretary **Jim Baker**; **Robert Sims**, Pentagon spokesman; **Marlin Fitzwater**, who worked for Mr. Regan at Treasury and is now **George Bush's** press secretary; **Tom Hughes**, former State Department spokesman; and **Dan Howard**, deputy press secretary for foreign affairs at the Pentagon.

Katharine Graham thought it perfectly appropriate to celebrate **George Shultz's** 66th birthday Dec. 13 with a bottle of champagne. So after their Saturday afternoon doubles match at the Arlington Y tennis club, she popped the bubbly. No one remembers the score.

The partying goes on. The chairman of **Frank Carlucci's** transition team at the National Security Council, **Ken Adelman**, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, borrowed pianist **Peter Robinson** from the Ritz-Carlton bar for his Christmas party at the State Department. The guests sang along, as if the only transition they had in mind were the one into the New Year.

Author **Larry Collins**, in town researching his novel on mind control, dined the other evening at Micheline in Georgetown with psychiatrist **Norman Tamarkin**. Larry, who lives in London and the South of France, had found the right spot. Micheline, the trendy bistro, is owned by yet another shrink, **Dr. Justin Frank**.

That was quite a gathering of the junior jet set at **Mia Martin** and **Ordy Woodward's** wedding reception at the Ritz-Carlton the other evening. Ordy is from the General Foods family of Palm Beach. **Jade Jagger**, **Mick** and **Bianca's** daughter, who's a Georgetown University student, was there with **Willy Hearst**, a junior member of the publishing family.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum and his wife, **Shirley**, are grandparents again. **Zachary Robert Hyatt** was born last week to their daughter, **Susan**, and **Joel Hyatt**, as in legal services, the hopeful heir to his father-in-law's seat. Shirley, who's making good progress since she sustained a head injury in a bicycle accident several months ago, accompanied the senator to Kansas City to see the new baby.

Paul Laxalt and **Russell Long** will join Finley Kumble Wagner, where insiders say they'll each receive a $1 million compensation package. Several other former members of Congress, including **Joe Tydings**, **Frank Ikard** and **Lou Frey**, are partners in that law firm.

— **Karen Feld**