

# KAREN

## On Tuesday

**R**emember the story put out early last April when Vice President George Bush traveled to Saudi Arabia? Reportedly he went to the Middle East to discuss oil prices. Some insiders now say the trip was actually a chapter in the multilayered Iran-Contra episode.

Publicly the vice president was given a cool reception. The message he was said to have delivered was that the United States wished to have the Saudis curtail oil production so that prices would stabilize, reducing damage to U.S. oil-producing states.

During his visit, Mr. Bush met with the crown prince, who is the minister of defense, and King Fahd. The meeting, which insiders say actually concerned the Saudi role in supplying funds to the Nicaraguan resistance and other movements that the U.S. supports, continued into the wee hours of the morning. The Saudi ambassador to the U.S., Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, a nephew of King Fahd, was also present at that meeting.

**T**he luxury German hotel corporation Kempinski intends to sign a deal any day now that will give it a substantial but minority interest in the Grand Hotel in Washington's West End. Joseph Yasbec, the Lebanese hotelier whose company, Crown Hotel Group, purchased the majority interest last fall, will sell part of its interest to Kempinski. (Local developer **Joey Kaempfer** holds tight to his minority interest.)

Kempinski owns numerous hotels in Germany, including the Bristol in Berlin, but the Grand would be the first in America. The Grand is getting ready for an influx of Germans when the German airline Lufthansa inaugurates service in and out of Washington in April. Of

course, Chancellor Helmut Kohl will stay at Kempinski's Grand when he visits Washington next spring.

**L**BJ's daughter **Lynda Robb** will be at the Kennedy Center helping out the kind of another president Saturday evening at the benefit **David** and **Julie Eisenhower** are chairing to raise funds for a state-of-the-art computerized lighting system for the Eisenhower Theater. Presidential kids seem to stick together, regardless of party affiliation. David doesn't want anyone to forget that it was his grandpa who deserves the credit for a performing arts center in Washington. After all, President Eisenhower authorized the private fund raising that built the Kennedy Center on federal land.

**D**avid Adler calls his new weekly tabloid, Immediate Release, "the Federal Express of the press release business." The 16-page prototype is composed entirely of press releases. For \$400, an association or business can purchase space to reprint a press release in any of 15 categories offered, including real estate, defense, fashion and sports.

David, who learned the publishing business when his family owned Dossier magazine, says he's made a break with his mom, who set out to become a Hollywood celebrity after she left Dossier, and his novelist dad, whose latest book gets a plug in the prototype of the anthology of the great press releases of our time. "I thought he'd like that," says David. He wants to use his profits to contribute to the \$40 million he says he needs to start a daily tabloid in Washington, where no doubt we'll see all those press releases brought back by popular demand.

**C**lare Boothe Luce expressed her thoughts on the '88 election at a reception following a screening of "The Conservatives": "George Bush is likely to be nominated for the same reason Goldwater said that Nixon was nominated in the film. 'As a Republican I'm interested in a winner. Nixon had been vice president, and I thought he was entitled.'"

— Karen Feld



Lynda Robb