KAREN On Tuesday

One political junkie realized how transient Washington friendships can be when he recently picked up a copy of "Both Your Houses: The Truth About Congress" in a used-book store for $2.

The author, New York Timesman **Warren Weaver Jr.**, had signed the book to his colleague at The Associated Press, **Walter Mears.** The inscription, one familiar to all newsies, reads: "To Walter Mears, who knows all this already but they keep cutting it out of his copy."

Gannett Chairman **Al Neuharth** gets down to basics and the back of the bus, albeit a specially designed one, as he launches his six-month USA BusCapade across the country this week.

His staff was atwitter when it learned that the chairman's mainstay, Cristal champagne, was nowhere to be found in Columbia, Mo. Would he compromise and settle for Dom?

As a member of the working press, USA Today's founder will modify his lifestyle just a little. Tonight he talks to students at the University of Missouri and, just like a real working pressie, will settle for beer and pretzels. This Bud's for you, gang.

Marty Martinez, the California congressman and a member of the Hispanic caucus, was part of a group that met with Japanese Ambassador **Nobuo Matsunaga** at the embassy the other day for a briefing in preparation for a Hispanic-American trade group to visit Japan.

The congressman, referring back to Japanese Prime Minister **Yasuhiro Nakasone's** remarks that America's education problem is the blacks and Hispanics, told the ambassador, "You can't continue to insult my people." To which the ambassador replied, "I don't understand why your people were so insulted. I have seven Hispanics working in my kitchen, and none of them were offended." This bud, on the other hand, may *not* be for you, gang.

Even ambassadors have **Adnan Khashoggi** stories. **Klaus Jacobi,** the ambassador from Switzerland, likes to tell his favorite tale about the armist. When the two were in Brunei at the same time a few years ago, Klaus noticed that the helicopter atop Adnan's ship had Swiss license tags. He later learned that the great armed one had registered it in Switzerland because it was the cheapest place to do so. "Why not?" asked the ambassador. "He's a financier."

While **the president** attends economic meetings in Vienna as part of his 10-day trip abroad for the June economic summit, **Mrs. Reagan** hopes to do a two-day spin-off tour of Sweden for sessions on drug addiction and rehabilitation. So it's not all Sacher torte.

When asked during an interview on Worldnet, the United States Information Agency's global TV network, if a black American could become president of the United States, Atlanta Mayor **Andy Young** replied, "Yes — though not in 1988 — but possibly before the turn of the century."

Early-morning dogwalkers who routinely greet Park Policepersons atop their horses in Montrose Park in Georgetown were surprised the other morning when hailed by a very proper and distinguished-looking equestrian, riding with a police escort. He was Sir **Antony Acland,** the British ambassador, enjoying a quiet trail ride.

— Karen Feld