

**B**ill Bennett, the education secretary, knows now that **President Reagan** is still fond of Hollywood.

At the American Conservative Union reception in Bill's honor the other evening, he talked enthusiastically about his lunch that afternoon with **Clint Eastwood**, the mayor of Carmel, Calif., and actor **Lou Gossett Jr.**, who were in town to receive an honor from Mr. Reagan for their work in "Take Pride in America."

After a rather chummy lunch, Bill took the actors on a tour of the White House, and to the Oval Office to greet the president. "I'm Clint Eastwood," said Mr. Mayor. "I'm Lou Gossett," said the actor. "I'm Charles Bronson," said the Cabinet secretary.

The president stared at him for a moment, and exclaimed, deadpan: "Mr. Bronson, you look very much like my secretary of education. Only you're more handsome."

The president has turned his wit

# KAREN On Friday

to mistaken identity before. In **Tip O'Neill's** upcoming book, "Man of The House: The Life and Political Memoirs of Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill," as told to **Bill Novak**, **Lee Iacocca's** ghostwriter, Tip recalls the time the president changed clothes in the speaker's office in the Capitol.

Tip, ever a gracious host, pointed out Grover Cleveland's desk to Mr. Reagan, then a newcomer to Washington. Said the president: "Oh, yes, I once played him." The speaker corrected him on the spot: "No, Mr. President, you played Grover Cleveland Alexander, the baseball player." The speaker was right on that one. (**Doris Day** was the president's "wife" in that one.)

**P**eter Rodino, the House judiciary chairman, is sharpening his sword in preparation for Attorney General **Ed Meese's** testimony before the Iran-Contra committee. The committee is also readying for testimony from **Don Regan** and **Cap Weinberger**. **Michael Ledeen** is mounting a campaign to testify, but insiders now say it's an even bet that in lieu of calling him as a witness, committee members may release his deposition to the public. It's not expected to reveal anything to shatter the earth.

There's a big rush among New York publishers to get **Ollie North** books into the stores while the colonel is still a hero. **Ben Bradlee Jr.**, a Boston Globe reporter and son of the executive editor of the OP, is hurrying to complete his book, "Guts and Glory: The Oliver North Story," which was originally scheduled for publication in March 1988, but will likely see print in the fall. The publisher is talking about a

first printing of 100,000, for whatever a publisher's promise is worth.

If you're lucky enough to get your copy autographed, not by the author but by Ollie himself, it's worth \$75, according to an expert on VIP scrawl. That's more than the signature of any public official today except President Reagan. His John Hancock is valued at \$200. But fame is fleeting. Gary Hart's autograph was worth \$30 just a few months ago when he was a candidate. Now you'd better grab the first offer. (No word on what a Donna Rice is worth.)

Is Washington losing the ability to laugh at itself? Henry Hyde, an ardent defender of the administration, laments that satire doesn't work anymore.

"On two occasions recently, I have used satire and it hasn't been universally understood, causing unpleasant moments," says the congressman. On the first, he referred

to Ollie North as a "dangerous man," meaning dangerous to people who resent fidelity, loyalty and honor. People called the congressman to find out why he had turned on Col. North.

On another occasion, when some members of the committee were critical of John Nields and Arthur Liman, Mr. Hyde, in a jolly voice filled with sarcasm, interjected that he hoped they would continue the questioning indefinitely, indicating his pleasure at the way Col. North was handling questions. "That was lost on the public, too," says the Illinois Republican. "I was praising North's responses to the lawyers, not the lawyers." Nearly everybody in public life has to learn about satire the hard way, don't they?

Pauls of John Brademas, the 11-term Indiana congressman and one-time Democratic whip and now president of New York University, crowded into the Hunt Club on

Capitol Hill the other evening to celebrate publication of his new book, "The Politics of Education: Conflict and Consensus on Capitol Hill," which represents John's two passions in life: education and politics. He was Congress' leading expert on financing higher education. His old colleague, House Speaker Jim Wright, was the genial host. Some old faces were there: former Speaker Carl Albert and his wife, Mary, on a rare visit back from Bug Tussle, Okla. (it's in Little Dixie); John's old classmate Jim Billington, the new librarian of Congress; and LBJ's counsel Harry McPherson.

John recently ran into Lou Harris, his pollster in his 1956 congressional campaign, on an airplane, and was thrilled when Lou told him he expects education to be a major issue in '88 congressional and presidential campaigns. "It's central to our capacity to maintain the security of our country."

— Karen Feld