

KAREN

On Friday

Fawn Hall, decked out in a new crinkly, pastel, short strapless gown, and escorted by her attorney, **Plato Cacheris**, was the center of attention at The Baltimore Sun party after the White House Correspondents dinner at the Washington Hilton the other evening.

They were among the last to leave at just after 1 a.m. and after **John Poindexter** planted a big kiss on her cheek, which must have made *somebody's* night. Distinguished and jaded scribes queued up for her autograph, news groupies all.

She exchanged autographed programs with **Bud McFarlane**. She signed hers, "To My Favorite, Bud." He signed hers, which she clutched tightly all evening, "To Fawn, To Next Time With Fewer People, Bud."

When someone asked who she wanted to work for, she didn't miss a beat, "Col. North." Why is that? "He's fascinating, has a great sense of humor, and high morals. You know he's a great family man. He works til 1 a.m. and still has quality time with the kids."

Fawn will vacation for two weeks at the end of May in France, Italy and Switzerland with a friend — of the female persuasion — who planned the trip. She's taking the crinkly, pastel, short, strapless gown which she says will pack well.

Congressional oversight has become big business. TRW, Lockheed and Pratt & Whitney sent representatives to listen to their nemesis, **Peter Stockton**, at Congressional Quarterly's first all-day seminar on congressional oversight and investigation at the Sheraton Grand Hotel. Peter, one of the speakers, is an investigator for Rep. **John Dingell's** Energy and Commerce oversight subcommittee. Perhaps they thought they could pick up the secret as to what makes Mr. Dingell, known as Congress' toughest investigator, go tick-tock. But it wasn't *only* companies under investigation that plunked down \$295 per person to see what tips they could pick up about the role of the Congress, the press, lawyers, the politics of oversight, and how to present themselves more effectively. The FBI, CIA, General Accounting Office, Defense Department, Labor Department, Commerce Department and even the mayor's office were represented.

A 76-page prototype of Congressional Quarterly's newest monthly publication, "Governing, The State and Localities," will be out next week. **Peter Harkness**, a CQ veteran of 17 years, and the editor and publisher of their newest venture, says "it's 4-color, snappy and snazzy." Are we talking about USA Today? Scheduled for fall publication, it'll focus on the problems and success stories of running state and local government.

Arthur Levitt, chairman of the American Stock Exchange, a Democrat and Washington's newest mini-media magnate, is one of those whose name is being talked about for chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. If he gets it, he'll give up wee little Roll Call, the congressional weekly he purchased last year.

K Street is fast becoming Washington's restaurant row. It has a new Parisienne brasserie, Florian. Owned by Los Angeles restaurateurs **Victor and Marlene Colucci**, it officially opens next Tuesday with a splash for Roll Call's first anniversary under the ownership of Levitt Communications. Some Republicans, including **Howard Baker**, Sen. **Pete Wilson** and **Bob Tuttle**, are expected to mingle at the raw bar with media heavies and a spattering of entertainers including **Pearl Bailey** and **Clare Yarlett** from "The Colbys." Production scouts for "Dynasty" and "Dallas" are checking the spot out for a shooting location.

Gloria Steinem's books are selling well at auction. She'll get \$1.2 million for two of them. "The Bedside Book of Self-Esteem" sold to Little, Brown for \$700,000. "The Trouble With Rich Women," a book about America's richest families — an outgrowth of Glo's essay for Ms. magazine — sold to Simon & Schuster for half a mil. This book explores how women are prevented from controlling inherited wealth.

A re the Democrats optimistic about the White House in '88? Does **John Kerry** know something the rest of us don't? John, chairman of the Senatorial Campaign Committee, sounds like he has some doubts. He sent a fund-raising letter saying that the Democrats need more senators in '88 to override future presidential vetoes. That would only hold true if a GOP wins the presidential race, of course.

— **Karen Feld**