

EISENHOWER, Dwight, Pres. U.S.A.

1967 Dec. 16.



Art Buchwald

Ike 'Interviewed' On His Grandson

NOW THAT Lynda Bird is married, the next big wedding America has to look forward to is the marriage of Julie Nixon, daughter of the former Vice President, to David Eisenhower, grandson of the former President of the United States.

I have been watching Mr. Eisenhower on television recently and I can just imagine an interview with him about his grandson's wedding.

It would probably go like this:

"Mr. Eisenhower, how do you feel about the news that your grandson is going to marry Miss Nixon?"

"Well, I'd like to say first—I mean, I was very—that is to say, this is a very important step for two people to take, and I think, well, when you get down to it—it ought to be a good thing—if you look at it from both sides."

"Sir, do you think this will have any effect on former Vice-President Nixon's chances of getting the Re-

I had great responsibilities, that is to say, I had to make many decisions. At the time, let's see, when was that?"

"From 1952 to 1960."

"Yes, well at that time, I would have said—though no one knew then. At least it seemed to me that David and Julie, and by the way, I had become very fond of Julie when what's-his-name was my Vice President—well, it really never entered my mind."

"Did David break the news to you himself?"

"THIS IS a very interesting point you raise. David and I are very close—that is to say, we have always had a very high regard—not that I see him every day—since he goes to college and I travel a lot—but this doesn't take anything away from the fact that I'm always interested in everything he does. That is to say, as a grandfather I am, though I don't want to belabor the point."

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Lincoln's Gettysburg speech

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"Sir, do you think this will have any effect on former Vice-President Nixon's chances of getting the Republican nomination?"

"NOW LET'S say this first. I have always had the Dick Nixon was with me for eight years, and I think I know him, but I'm not here to make political judgments—that is to say, one way or the other, particularly at this time, about who is going to be nominated as it stands now; though this is bound to change after the convention."

"Yes, sir. Well, back to the young couple. Did you ever dream that when David and Julie were little children in the White House that someday they would fall in love with each other?"

"I want to make myself very clear on this. David is my grandson—as President

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"Then from what you have told us, Mr. Eisenhower, can we say you are delighted with the upcoming nuptials?"

"Now I'm not going to get involved in something that I don't know anything about. I don't have the information that I used to have and I think if you don't have all the facts you should shut up. Marriage is a serious business—I'm not saying marriage can't be fun, but at the same time—I think that you can go about it in different ways—that is to say, you either go all out to win or you don't get in the game; and I think that is something people tend to forget, which could or could not be a mistake."

"Thank you, Mr. President."