

G. O. P. NEIGHBORS HELPING KENNEDY

Wrightsmans, Abroad, Lend Home and Heated Pool

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PALM BEACH, Fla., June 10—President Kennedy is discovering, as a beneficiary, the virtues of a good-neighbor policy.

Down the beachfront about a mile from the shuttered Kennedy winter home, two good Republicans came to the aid of the other party's leader. They are Charles and Jane Wrightsman, who turned over to neighbor Kennedy one of the most palatial surfside estates in Palm Beach.

This provided Mr. Kennedy with just what the doctor ordered—seclusion, rest and a heated, salt water swimming pool to ease his strained back. Mr. and Mrs. Wrightsman are spending the summer in Europe, as they customarily do.

Mr. Wrightsman made his fortune in oil wells and he has reinvested a large part of it in masterpieces—Renoirs, Vermeers and others. Mr. Wrightsman, who will be 66 years old Tuesday, is closer to the generation of President Kennedy's parents.

Mrs. Wrightsman is twenty-five to thirty years younger than her husband and is close to the age of the President's wife, with whom she shares art interests. Mr. and Mrs. Wrightsman own what is reputed to be one of the finest collections of Louis XV furniture in this country.

Has Ceramic Collection

Mrs. Wrightsman also owns a rare collection of birds in ceramic by Johann Joachim Kaendler, the eighteenth-century German sculptor, and a collection of porcelain boxes in color by a Russian artist.

Mrs. Kennedy has appointed the Wrightsmans to her committees to find period pieces and other appropriate art to decorate the White House. Mr. Wrightsman is a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which will eventually come into possession of the masterpieces he has collected. Their New York home is at 820 Fifth Avenue.

Mr. Wrightsman has a daughter Charlene by his first marriage. She is the wife of Igor Cassini, who as Cholly Knickerbocker reports society news for The New York Journal-American. Mr. Cassini is the brother of Oleg Cassini, designer of women's fashions whose creations Mrs. Kennedy has purchased.

Another daughter, Irene, is the wife of Alfredo Cernadas, an Argentine. They live in Switzerland.

Palm Beach neighbors say that the Wrightsmans live quietly for the most part but that they were noted, until four or five years ago, for their New Year's Eve parties.

These events are now sponsored by the Coconuts, a closed group, and are held in private rooms at the Ta-Boo, a Worth Avenue restaurant.

The Kennedys have attended some of the parties.

Is 32d Degree Mason

Mr. Wrightsman served for a time as chairman of the board of St. Mary's Hospital here.

St. Mary's is operated by Roman Catholic nuns and is open to patients without reference to religion. Mr. Wrightsman is a 32d Degree Mason.

His father, Charles J. Wrightsman, died two years ago at age 90, cutting his son off from a \$2,000,000 estate. He left most of it to a foundation for students, needy children and medical research, saying:

"I have helped my son in the past."

The younger Wrightsman, at his father's death, had already accumulated a fortune. A Palm Beach friend said it probably was not a billion, "but he's not in any difficulty."

He purchased the estate of Harrison Williams, the late utility executive, adjoining the estate of the late Robert R. Young on North County Road, and made considerable additions and improvements.

The Wrightsman estate affords Mr. Kennedy more privacy than he finds at the White House. A gigantic hedge, palm trees, massive iron gates and magnificent distancic-screen the house, the Olympic-size swimming pool and tennis courts from the road.

Visitors approach the house on a golden-colored, gravel



Bert and Richard Morgan

PRESIDENT'S HOST AND HOSTESS: Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Wrightsman, who have turned over their Palm Beach, Fla., estate to President Kennedy for his vacation.

drive leading into a circular court bordered by beautifully kept seven-foot hedges. Three majestic palm trees in the center of the court accentuate the elegance.

The house itself is of white stucco and red tile. A local newspaper reported it had fourteen rooms, including eight bedrooms, but a friend of the family thought that was a conservative count.

On the ocean side of the house the President can stand on a lawn and command an unimpeded view of the Atlantic.