

## Eye on Washington by Stanley Ezrol

### A singular invitation

Guests arriving at the Georgetown garden-party fundraiser for Averell and Pamela Churchill Harriman's personal PAC, Democrats for the 80s, were treated to a glimpse of the Harriman family's background. Each guest—for the most part underpaid Capitol Hill staffers being made to feel "a part of things"—was handed a gold-colored invitation to another reception, this one to commemorate the golden anniversary of the 1932 Eugenics Conference sponsored by and dedicated to Mary Harriman, the late mother of Averell Harriman.

The invitation announced that "proceeds from the affair will go to the Fund to Endow a Nobel Prize in Race Science." "Anglo-Saxons Only Need RSVP," it said in the corner; "Music by the Cliveden Set. Catering by Aryan Freres."

The invitation contained a precise characterization of the Harriman family, under the title "A Golden Anniversary":

"On Feb. 10, 1927, the *New York Times* carried an article under the headline: 'Harriman Returns from Tour Abroad; Saw Mussolini in Rome.'" The article quotes foresightful Averell Harriman directly on how he was 'very much impressed' with the economic development of Italy under Mussolini.

"But this was merely a precursor. The 1932 Eugenics Conference, held at New York's Museum of Natural History—sponsored by, attended by, and ultimately dedicated to Mrs. Mary Harriman—had truly world-shattering effects.

"At the pinnacle of its accomplishments was the *unanimous* election of Alfred Plotz, of the German

Society for Racial Hygiene, as President of the International Eugenics Society. Another conference attendee, Ernst Rudin (President of the German Society) wrote of Plotz in a 1940 obituary: 'It is tragic Plotz did not live to see the solution to the problem of understanding among Nordic races, when he had believed so ardently in the purposeful leadership of Adolf Hitler and his holy national and international racial hygiene mission.'

"Rudin himself would later gain far-reaching attention as author of: 1) The Nazi law "For Protection of German Blood and German Honor," which declared Jews to be non-citizens; 2) The forced sterilization programs for "mental defectives"; and 3) The T-4 program which trained the operators of the concentration camps.

### 'Survival of the unfittest'

"Your host and hostess today might agree that there are lessons for our time in the keynote address, delivered by Henry Fairfield Osborne, director of the Museum of Natural History and nephew of J. P. Morgan. Osborne argued (when the Great Depression had forced 25 percent of the American workforce out of work) that 'overpopulation and unemployment are twin sisters. . . . The unemployed are naturally the less competent. In nature they would disappear, but in civilization we are keeping them . . . and encouraging the survival of the unfittest. . . . The slogan, 'Not More, But Better, Americans' should have its counterpart in every country in the world. . . . [Q]uality rather than quantity is the essential element of progress in every country and in every race.'

"Another attendee and associate of the Harrimans was Madison Grant, head of the Immigration Restriction League. Grant wrote:

"In the United States there is a native American aristocracy resting upon layer after layer of immigrants of lower races. . . . [I]t has taken us 50 years to learn that speaking English, wearing good clothes, and going to school and church does not transform a Negro into a white man. And we will have similar experiences with Polish Jews, whose dwarf stature and peculiar mentality are being engrafted upon the stock of the nation.'

"Nor should we forget Dr. Charles Davenport, head of the Harriman-funded Eugenics Records Office . . . an aficionado of human breeding techniques."

On the back page of the invitation was an announcement that the Golden Jubilee will culminate in the presentation by Gov. Jerry Brown of the Ernst Rudin Quality of Life Award to Democratic National Committee Chairman Charles T. Manatt. The award, it said, was sponsored by "Resources for the Few, the Second Century Fund, and the Fund for an Anglo-Saxon Majority. Time: 1982. Place: Nuremberg." The invitation stated that it was "authorized and paid for by the National Democratic Policy Committee as a public service of its 'Known or Should Have Known' Division."

The Harrimans' staff immediately tried to stop the distribution of the invitations. They told incoming guests, "You don't want to read that . . . it's just an embarrassment to the Harrimans."

When Charles Manatt arrived, he read slowly through his invitation and asked a Harriman aide to explain it to him.

One Harriman neighbor who commented, "You can't believe how disgusted I am with the lines of people marching over there all the time to shake the old cadaver's hand. You'll come for the next party, won't you?"