



To the President and Mrs. Eisenhower, John's and Barbara's presence makes any affair more gala.

THE NEW ROLE OF THE YOUNG EISENHOWERS

In recent months, the President has come to depend on John and Barbara more and more, and despite their busy personal lives they've met the toughest challenges

By **FLORA RHETA SCHREIBER**

IN WASHINGTON, D.C., a tall, shy young man leaves the third floor of the White House, where he has spent the night, and goes to work as an assistant White House staff secretary to Brig. Gen. Andrew Goodpaster, who is in charge of liaison between the Presidential offices, the State Department, and the Pentagon.

In Gettysburg, Pa., a tall, slender, dark-haired woman with full hazel eyes and a round smiling face steps out of a simple two-story frame home, a remodeled schoolhouse, to visit the local hospital, where she is a nurse's aide.

These are John and Barbara Eisenhower, the son and daughter-in-law of the President.

Seeing John at this moment, one does not suspect that his are anything but the routine duties of an Army officer assigned to the White House. Yet according to close observers, John, whose opinions carry great weight with his father, plays a major role in the conduct of White House business.

Seeing Barbara at this moment, one does not connect her with the woman who, as her father-in-law's unofficial hostess, danced with ambassadors, dined with premiers and presidents, and had an audience with the Pope.

When I asked John to describe his White House duties, he said simply: "My work involves briefing the President on matters pertaining to national security, assisting in the handling of staff action in this field, and miscellaneous activities which might include assisting in the editing of speeches or acting as a member of the advance party for a Presidential trip."

As an "advance" man, John went with a team of seven others to South America about three weeks in advance of his father's own trip. Then, on Feb. 15, he again went to Latin America, to be based in Buenos Aires, to greet his father and the Presidential party upon their arrival.

In June, when the President leaves for his long-



On Ike's tour of India, such moments of "relaxation" were rare.

awaited, much-heralded trip to Russia, it is assumed that John, who will be part of his party, will again precede him as "advance man."

These facts, however, are only a small part of the true picture of John Eisenhower's increasingly important White House role. His arrival preceded Sherman Adams' departure by three months. The President, who said of Sherman Adams, "I need him," has transferred some of that need to his own son. Sustaining a much greater loss with the death of John Foster Dulles, Ike has turned to his son to help fill that void, too. In the 16 months that John has been in the White House, he has been the sounding board, the confidant, and, not infrequently, the actual adviser of his father.

Says George A. Horkan, a Middleburg, Va., lawyer and close friend of John since early childhood: "I hate to think of history labeling John only as a pleasant young man when, in reality, he is of substantial value in the White House. His