



The China Room, show place for historic art objects, has china cabinets built into the walls.



The Eisenhowers formally accept antique pieces contributed for the Diplomatic Reception Room.



The Center Hall on top floor of the White House is tastefully decorated with an eye for comfort.



One of several new guest rooms, this one is furnished with reproductions of 18th-century beds.



The swimming pool in the West Wing of the White House was built for Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



The most important desk in the land waits for President Kennedy.

An Open Letter to President and Mrs. Kennedy

Someone who has just moved out suggests to the family moving in how their stay in the White House can be a rewarding one

By **STEPHEN HESS**

Former Special Assistant to President Eisenhower

Dear President and Mrs. Kennedy:

Welcome to the White House! For the next four years your office and home will be in the most fascinating building in the world. As one who has just left the White House, after spending two years on President Eisenhower's staff, I might be able to give you a few tips on your new home. I hope you will not think me presumptuous: these suggestions are offered only in the hope that our new President and his family will spend a happy and rewarding future in the White House.

Landscaping:

First of all, let's take one of the least pressing problems: choosing a tree to plant on the White House lawn—as almost every other President of the United States has done. President Eisenhower added a red oak; there is an American elm that John Quincy Adams planted; Grover Cleveland chose a Japanese maple. Andrew Jackson brought a Southern magnolia from his estate, the Hermitage. Perhaps you might bring a tree to the White House from Hyannis Port, Mass.

Recreation:

For relaxation you'll have a tennis court (used

most recently by Margaret Truman) and the putting green used by President Eisenhower. There is also a swimming pool (built for Franklin Delano Roosevelt) and a small gymnasium with punching bag and exercising machine. A warning—the latter once got out of control and ran away with Tom Stephens, President Eisenhower's appointments secretary, so watch out! I have one other small suggestion about your recreation facilities: I've noticed that the water temperature in the swimming pool is kept at 90 degrees. I think this is far too hot to be invigorating.

Decor:

I've read newspaper speculation that Mrs. Kennedy may exhibit modern art in the White House. I happen to like modern art very much, but I think there is a place for everything. Modern art, I feel, would detract from the elegant public rooms, such as the State Dining Room and the East Room. You might put modern art in the "Fish Room." This is right across the hall from your office and is used as the staff conference room. By the way, it is called the "Fish Room" because President Roosevelt kept his aquarium there. I've heard, too, that

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COVER:

We're certain snow was made for moments like this, as our young friends delight themselves tobogganing down the slope. Glen Fishback photographed the gay scene.

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