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KUP'S COLUMN

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Mayor-elect Rich Daley, steeped in the problem of selecting top aides, will be ready to announce such appointments early next week. Meanwhile, Daley is being bombarded with advice from all segments of Our Town on how to conduct his new office. That reminds me of the time David Ben-Gurion, first prime minister of Israel, visited President Harry Truman and complained about all the advice he was getting. "That shouldn't be too troublesome in a nation of only 3 million. I have some 200 million citizens to contend with," Truman argued. "But," replied Ben-Gurion, "you're the president of those 200 million. I'm the prime minister with 3 million presidents." THE USE OF RACKETEERING charges in the conviction of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom by U.S. Attorney Tony Valukas was a daring tactic that many lawyers predicted would fail. The conviction sends a message to mobsters (who were behind the two sports agents) - keep out of college athletics. Two longtime friends, Valukas and Dan Webb, waged an exciting battle on opposing sides in the case. And they shook hands after the verdict.

ONE OF THE more attractive offers for outgoing Mayor Sawyer, if he picks the private sector, is an office in the executive suite of Pru-Bache. He'll also join the board of Mid-City Bank. . . . One more salute for Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz: He'll be honored by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin at the Big Shoulders dinner June 1 in the Palmer House. Chairing the dinner, to raise

funds for the Catholic Archdiocese inner-city schools, will be such powerhouses as Lester Crown, Richard (Amoco) Morrow and Tom Reynolds.

A POST-ELECTION survey shows Ald. Dorothy Tillman was one of the big, big losers. The survey shows she cost Ald. Tim Evans a large number of votes with her outrageous statements. And her 3rd Ward had the lowest percentage turnout of voters in the city. So no tip of the hat to the Hat Lady.

JONATHON Brandmeier's TV deal with NBC and independent producer Fred Silverman stipulates that he'll originate any show in Chicago. That will enable him to continue at WLUP radio. . . . Former heavyweight champ Leon Spinks is moving to Chicago to join Jimmy Rittenberg of Ditka's. Spinks will serve as a tuxedo-clad greeter at Ditka's, as well as appearing at Rittenberg's other operations - Ditka's Trackside, Ditka's in Merrillville, Ind., and Whitey Herzog's in St. Louis.

THE ANNUAL Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race dinner tonight in the University Club will reunite Chicago graduates of the two famous British schools, celebrating their traditional rowing contest. It also will be a big night for Christopher Janus - the 50th anniversary of his graduation from Oxford and the 50th anniversary of his marriage to Beatrice.

FRIENDS OF Avis LaVelle, Rich Daley's campaign press secretary, will gather tonight at the Chicago Marriott to celebrate her expected appointment to press aide for the new mayor. . . . Gov. Thompson will join Mike Ditka and Greg Baise of the state Transportation Department in Soldier Field today to tape TV public service announcements to encourage use of cellular phones for highway assistance. DiMeo and Associates is producing the message.

MERV GRIFFIN, the multimultimillionaire, was on the phone from the Bahamas to tell us about his new Paradise Island airliner, which will fly regularly between Florida and Paradise Island. Griffin owns four luxurious hotels and a gambling casino on the isle in the sun as a result of his deal with Donald Trump. . . . A sample of French culture, the Club de Lido revue, won cheers from a capacity crowd in the Palmer House. The dancing girls were beautiful and leggy, and the costumes were magnificent. (But you can see the same thing in Las Vegas.)

NANCY REAGAN, who will be honored for her "Just Say No" campaign by Children's Memorial Medical Center on May 11, will be joined by another headliner, Pearlie May Bailey. . . . Youngest member of the cast in the new movie "The Perfect Model" is Catero Colbert, a freshman at the Chicago Academy of the Arts. . . . Our

congratulations to Dick Mitchell, Sun-Times deputy metropolitan editor, who weds Doreen Wurster at Antioch United Methodist Church tomorrow.

TODAY'S ACTION has something for everybody: super illusionist David Copperfield at the Civic Opera House; Japanese singing star Keiko at Doug's Place; the Lyric Opera/Crate & Barrel benefit at Plaza del Lago in Winnetka and "The Speed of Darkness" at Goodman Theatre. And tomorrow: Marsha Warfield of TV's "Night Court" and Sinbad of "A Different World" star at the Regal Theatre.

THE MANY friends of Herman Kogan will assemble at Newberry Library today for a memorial service. . . . Adding a year: Betting-beleaguered Pete Rose, Loretta Lynn, Julie Christie, Nancy Kissinger, Rod Steiger, Andrew Barrett, John Gielgud, Cheryl Rhoads, South Chicago Police Chief Rennie Smith III, Channel 5's Ysabel Duron and Channel 2's Rod Perth. . . . And for a closing chuckle: First the good news - Elvis Presley is alive. The bad news - so are his impersonators.

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