

Harvey McFarland.



✓ McFarland rivalled PM in gift-giving ✓

WASHINGTON (CP) — Somewhere in the depths of the National Archives building, according to a recent inventory, rest two dozen Canadian gifts to President Nixon.

Like the hundreds of other gifts to the former president and his wife, they have been painstakingly catalogued and filed away for some future day when they may appear on a museum shelf.

U.S. law prohibits presidents and other public officials from keeping gifts over \$50 for their personal use and the careful inventory was also inspired by post-Watergate suspicion that Nixon might have kept some gifts illegally.

From Prime Minister Trudeau, for example, Nixon received such gifts as: a photo of Trudeau inscribed "with warm regards and all good wishes"; five albums of photos of the president's 1972 visit to Canada; another album of photos of the Nixons at a seaway ceremony; a portfolio of Eskimo engravings and old maps of the St. Lawrence River area.

Nixon presumably might have kept most of those gifts without violating the \$50 limit but apparently decided to give them to the country.

A more ornate prime ministerial gift was a stone-carved figure of an Eskimo with an ivory bow and spear.

The catalogue notes that the bow is broken in two places.

Richard Jacobs, an official involved in the inventory, said the bow can easily be repaired when the item is wanted for exhibit and "that day will come, somewhere in the future."

Next to Trudeau, the most prolific Canadian gift-giver listed was the late Harvey McFarland, former mayor of Picton, Ont.

His gifts included:

A jewelled miniature figure and shrine in a display box, inscribed "sacred antique object" and "souvenir of His Royal Highness Prince Amedeo, deceased."

A bone-china figure of a bald eagle.

A black desk plaque with engraved sterling-silver plate.

A cybis Christmas rose, eight inches tall, mounted on a mahogany-wood base.

One pair of British Columbia jade bookends.

A Picton civic official said the gifts came from McFarland personally.

A former secretary to McFarland said she did not know why they were sent, but added: "He was a very kind man and if he liked somebody he would give a gift. ... He never told anybody what his gifts were."

The Intelligencer

June 26, 1978