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## Have some more guacamole, said the President

What the President of the United States said to the President of Romania was, "That's Arthur Schatz of LIFE. He follows me all over the world." What the President of Romania replied is unrecorded, but Schatz himself has given up counting presidential miles and now measures his coverage in terms of temperatures. He figures he has photographed Mr. Nixon over a span of 134°—from 114° above in Pakistan to 20° below in New Hampshire. It was at the start of the chilly New Hampshire primaries that Schatz and White House Correspondent Margery Byers first joined the Nixon entourage. They have been with it off and on ever since, and this week they report on the Western White House, in California, where temperature was not really the problem at all.

"Covering the President is an intriguing game," says Arthur, "and taking the picture is the easiest part of it. Sometimes it took Marge days and even weeks of negotiations to get permission for what we wanted, and then there is always stiff competition from the resident press corps when you try to get away with something special. For this story, perhaps because we'd been with the President since the beginning, things loosened up a bit. Once, when the rest of the press was leaving the summer White House to wait for the next 'photo opportunity' at a nearby hotel, I got a wink from an official and ducked out of sight and stayed behind. When I'd made my pictures, I was sent home in an official car with a Marine driver—and, to my horror, pulled up beside a large parked car full of the other photographers. It would never do—at least until the magazine came out—to let them know I'd had a special privilege, so I hid on the bottom of the car with a coat over me until they'd gone away."

"The President is a very private man," says Marge; "he does not like to be caught off guard and is not completely at ease with the press—I'm not sure I'd be, either. But he can be surprisingly jovial and relaxed. Once, when I sat at his table at the Mexican lunch he gave in California, he asked that the centerpiece be taken away to give us more elbowroom and spent the meal urging us all to dip into the guacamole, touting the hot sauce, and telling us to have another taco and forget the waistline. Last summer in Key Biscayne, when someone teased him about his skill at mixing an absolutely perfect martini, he disappeared inside and emerged with a tray of six frosted glasses."



RALPH GRAVES  
Managing Editor

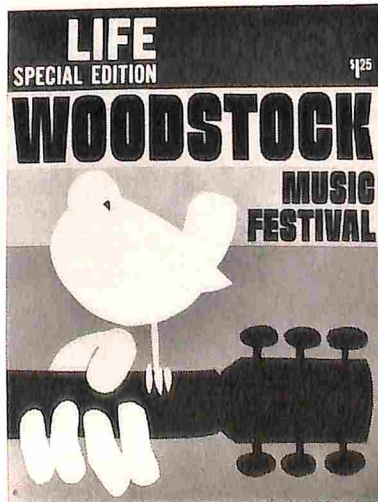
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### SPECIAL EDITION

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**TIME**



**INSIDE  
WHITE HOUSE WEST**

**Peter Max:**  
Portrait of the artist  
as a very rich man

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