

About Women in Washington

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WASHINGTON, AUG. 20—The President's wing of the White House is a pretty messy place, in the opinion of Mrs. Hattie Mayfield. She ought to know. She cleans it.

Mrs. Mayfield is forgiving, however. She said she understands that overflowing wastebaskets and ashtrays are just facts of life. And in the Presidential offices and White House press corps cubicles, all grouped in that wing, renovations have been in progress. But she expects the renovations won't last forever.

Mrs. Mayfield, 44, is the mother of six and the grandmother of seven. She was a grandmother at 34, 13 years after she came to the capital from her native North Carolina.

"I don't know anything about my parents," she said. "I was just raised. Actually, my husband—he works for a metal factory—he says he raised me."

Mrs. Mayfield's family is pretty proud of the way everyone in it was raised.



Mrs Mayfield

ONE OF HER SONS, a college graduate, is a champion broadjumper in the army. He has competed in Italy, and now is stationed in Germany. Another son is driving a cab this summer, but is going to law school in Chicago in September. A third son is in school here. One daughter is a student at Howard university, majoring in education. Another daughter has a job in New York. The third daughter is the mother of seven.

"We haven't been able to give them a lot of help," Mrs. Mayfield said. "We lived in government projects for a while, but since we've been able to do better we've been buying our own house, and that costs."

"By working eight hours a day at the White House and five hours in an office building, I can give the children a little, tho. And they all work all they can. One of my sons used to caddy summers — he caddied for President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon!"

Mrs. Mayfield's White House job began in 1961. She remembers talking to President Kennedy at a White House Christmas party, but said she's seen more of his successor. She confirms that President Johnson "sure is a great one for turning out lights."

MRS. MAYFIELD said she does get a little sleep in the day time, but not so much as she used to before she started working to finish high school.

"I'd been watching that educational television," she said, "and then my son came home one day—the one that drives a cab—and said, 'I have a Christmas gift for you. It's something you've been wanting. She's coming over to meet you.'"

"I thought, my goodness, he's getting married! But you know? It was a tutor he'd hired to help me. I'm doing real good, if I have to say so."

Mrs. Mayfield thinks the Johnson administration's anti-poverty program is "pretty nice—for other people."

"A lot of people are not like myself," she said. "They just sit down and wait for someone to do something. I guess they need help. But me—I never gives up!"