

Notes on People

Air Force Discharging Sergeant

At Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, T/Sgt. Leonard Matlovich was being processed for discharge yesterday following rejection of his appeal by John L. McLucas in one of his last acts as Secretary of the Air Force. Mr. McLucas, who was sworn in late Monday as Federal Aviation Administrator, affirmed the decision by Sergeant Matlovich's commanding officer that, under Air Force regulations, the 32-year-old Vietnam veteran's publicly declared homosexuality barred him from further service.

An Air Force spokesman had said that Sergeant Matlovich, after 12 years in uniform, would be a civilian by today. But David Addlestone, a Washington lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, was seeking a court order to block the discharge in the hope of obtaining additional hearings.

Mr. Addlestone said he also expected to file suit against the Air Force in Federal District Court, to pursue the legal challenge that Sergeant Matlovich, assigned as an instructor in human relations, initiated seven months ago. Said the sergeant: "I'm just a little apprehensive about tomorrow. I've always been in the Air Force and I'm not giving up on the service."

An old mahogany-framed mirror belonging to Representative Paul Simon and his wife, Jeanne, was damaged in the couple's move from Illinois to Washington early this year. They filed what they considered a "modest" claim of \$75, according to the freshman Democrat. Recently they received a \$12 check from Bekins Van Lines Company — which reported yesterday that, because no insurance premium had been paid on the shipment, damages could not exceed 60 cents a pound per item. Representative Simon signed the check over to Ralph Nader, suggesting that if the consumer advocate was not already investigating moving

van companies, he might want to start.

Gov. George C. Wallace's luck in meeting European leaders seemed to have worsened yesterday as he left Bonn without seeing either Chancellor Helmut Schmidt or President Walter Scheel. Before leaving for West Berlin, the Alabama Governor, who is expected to run for the Presidency, told reporters that he might not have "anything special" or new to say about foreign policy when he gets back from his trip: "The main thing I'll say is that I've been abroad."

President Ferdinand E. Marcos of the Philippines, who has remained close to his Malacanang Palace since a Moslem rebellion led him to proclaim martial law three years ago, has awarded his country's Legion of Honor to the United States Air Force unit that helped strengthen the palace guard. The guard was given special training as well as heavy weapons including British Scorpion tanks. Capt. Alfredo Domingo of Hawaii accepted the award Monday at a ceremony aboard the President's yacht.

On a trip to the Soviet Union last month, District Attorney Mario Merola of the Bronx, who will soon be running for re-election, interviewed Soviet Jews seeking immigration to Israel. He also asked the American Consulate in Leningrad to help him meet the local head of the K.G.B., or secret police. He was told that the K.G.B. would never receive him.

Finally, I indicated to them that the Russian mission to the United Nations was in the Bronx and I could give them the same treatment," Mr. Merola said yesterday. He said he got a meeting with the procurator of Leningrad—he doesn't know the

man's name or quite what he does—and with an official of similar rank in Moscow. Both times, according to Mr. Merola, "it was a one-way conversation" — he talked about the Bronx and they listened to his translator. About all he found out, he said, was that the Russians say they have no crime problem but concede there is an alcoholism problem in Moscow.

After three weeks of tests and observation, Mario Procaccino was discharged yesterday from Misericordia Hospital and Medical Center in the Bronx. The former city controller and state commissioner of taxation and finance, who switched from the Democratic to the Republican party, promptly indicated that he would "play an active role" in the 1977 municipal elections.

Meeting in Williamsburg, Va., the American Society of Magazine Editors elected as president Ruth Whitney, editor-in-chief of Glamour, succeeding Anderson Ashburn, editor of The American Machinist. Dennis Flanagan, editor of Scientific American, is the new vice president, and Robert C. Gardner, vice president of the Magazine Publishers Association, was re-elected secretary.

"One of the things that Jerry Ford has learned is how to dress like a President," John Molloy, a self-described "wardrobe engineer," said in Miami yesterday. Mr. Molloy, who approves of the "conservative, upper-class dress of successful members of Northeastern law firms," contended that when President Ford first took office "he wore some of the wildest-looking ties you ever saw—he was saying, 'I'm good old Jer. Follow me to the golf course.'"

LAURIE JOHNSTON