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July 16-23, 1982



THE SPANISH MAIN EVENT



Sen. Claiborne Pell; Lucky Roosevelt



Soledad Becerril, Spain's minister of culture, and Paul Mellon

WASHINGTON — “The best thing they’ve ever had here in terms of real quality, one after another,” raved Roger Stevens, chairman of the Kennedy Center, as he ogled the National Gallery’s new El Greco exhibition here. Stevens, who owns a few Monet originals himself, added, “This is a league you don’t get into as a collector.” French Ambassador Bernard Vernier-Paillez agreed: “Grecos need space, and here they have it.”

Air quality, not space problems, kept Paul Mellon fretting that cooling 370 guests had overtaxed the gallery’s air-conditioning system. “We watched the shadows on the wall to see if the Calder mobile would start moving again,” said Ulla Wachtmeister who, earlier in the day, had spot-sprayed her green satin overcoat orange. Pam Brown, wife of gallery director Carter Brown, showed up in a black and white Givenchy and was congratulated for her idea of using bouquets of Queen Anne’s lace as centerpieces.



Cheray Hodges



Kay Graham