

# Vice President's Mansion Becomes Art Gallery

By John W. Kole

Journal Washington Bureau

**Washington D.C.** — For all of her adult life, art has been a major interest of Joan Mondale.

While at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., she took a minor in art and also worked at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, cataloging prints and teaching children's art classes.

Now only two months after her husband, Walter, became vice president, Mrs. Mondale has installed 52 works of modern art in their government home just north of Georgetown.

## First to Use

Although the 80 year old home has been designated as the vice president's residence since 1974, the Mondales are the first second family to use it. Former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller preferred to use his own more elaborate digs nearby.

Mrs. Mondale gave a lunch for reporters Wednesday to show off the new paintings, which are on loan from various collections from throughout the country, mostly in the Midwest.

Five of the paintings are from Wisconsin collections, three from the Milwaukee Art Center and two from the Madison Art Center.

Hanging in the living room of the mansion on Naval Ob-



—AP Wirephoto

**US art patron**

**Joan Mondale**

servatory Hill is Georgia O'Keeffe's "Patio With Cloud," a starkly simple portrayal of her adobe house in New Mexico done by the native of Sun Prairie, Wis. in 1956. It was donated by the late Mrs. Edward R. Wehr.

I. Michael Danoff, acting director of the Milwaukee Art Center, said it was the most valuable of the three from Milwaukee, with an estimated current value of \$85,000.

The two others from Milwaukee are part of the collection of Mrs. Harry Lynde Bradley, Milwaukee's leading art patron.

One is in the center hall over the fireplace. It is called Red Rock Falls and was painted by the late Milton Avery in 1947.

The other is by New York pop artist Andy Warhol, a 1965 work called "Campbell's Soup," a rendering of the familiar can of tomato soup. It is hung in a corner of the den on the first level of the house.

Irene Braeger, Mrs. Bradley's secretary, declined to estimate the value of the two paintings.

Over another fireplace is a square Sam Francis acrylic on paper, "Untitled 1974," the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Renfert to the Madison Art Center.

## Madison Loan

At the bottom of the main stairs leading to the second floor bedrooms is another Madison loan, "Meeker's Press," a 1976 vacuum silk-screen by Sam Gilliam.

Mrs. Mondale talked happily about her new acquisitions and her plans to change the collection after a year, probably for another set from galleries in the South and Southwest.

She is being assisted in the collecting by Martin Friedman, director of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.

## Other Pieces

Other paintings, drawings, sculptures, prints and craft objects are on loan from museums in Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, Kansas, New York and Washington, D.C.

Among other 20th century artists represented are Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, Josef Albers, William Bazotes, Willem de Kooning, Charles Demuth, Adolph Gottlieb, Edward Hopper, Jacob Lawrence, Robert Motherwell, Charles Sheeler and Mark Tobey.

After graduating from Macalaster in the early 1950s, Mrs. Mondale worked at the

Boston Museum of Fine Arts and at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

When her husband came to Washington as a Minnesota senator, Mrs. Mondale gave weekly volunteer tours of the

National Gallery of Art and took pottery lessons. A few pieces of her pottery are also in evidence at the residence.

Five years ago, she wrote a book called "Politics in Art" in which she traced the rela-

tionship between artists and politicians.

"Both deal with human emotions and human conditions," she said. "Both seek to tell us about the good and the bad around us."