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PUBLIC LIVES

The Man Upstairs

BOB HARDWICK, the band leader hired to play at **STEVE FORBES'S** \$1,000-a-plate dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria on Wednesday, did not know what to expect. "I thought we were going to play for dancing," he said.

But there were tables where the dance floor usually is, and Mr. Hardwick was relegated to a balcony.

No big deal, insisted Mr. Hardwick, who sounded like a diplomat when asked what

he thought of Mr. Forbes, the magazine magnate and would-be Republican Presidential nominee.

"I play for Democrats, independents and Republicans," he said.

"I'd rather not say who I'm going to vote for. But I am one of these people who would be happy to pay more tax, even with a flat tax, because Americans lose tremendous amounts of productive time preparing their taxes."

JAMES BARRON
with Marcelle S. Fischler