

## Irving Berlin

### "Hostess With The Mostes' On The Ball The"

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I was born on a thousand acres of Oklahoma land  
Nothing grew on the thousand acres for it was gravel  
and sand  
One day father started digging in a field  
Hoping to find some soil  
He dug and he dug and what do you think?  
Oil, oil, oil  
The money rolled in and I rolled out with a fortune piled  
so high  
Washington was my destination  
And now who am I?

I'm the chosen party giver  
For the White House clientele  
And they know that I deliver  
What it takes to make 'em jell  
And in Washington I'm known by one and all  
As the hostess with the mostes' on the ball

They could go to Elsa Maxwell  
When they had an axe to grind  
They could always grind their axe well  
At the parties she designed  
Now the hatchet grinders all prefer to call  
On the hostess with the mostes' on the ball

I've a great big bar and good caviar  
Yes, the best that can be found  
And a large amount in my bank account  
When election time comes 'round

If you're feeling presidential  
You can make it, yes, indeed  
There are just three things essential  
Let me tell you all you need  
Is an ounce of wisdom and a pound of gall  
And the hostess with the mostes' on the ball

An Ambassador has just reached the shore  
He's a man of many loves  
An important gent from the Orient

To be handled with kid gloves

He can come and let his hair down  
Have the best time of his life  
Even bring his new affair down  
Introduce her as his wife  
But she mustn't leave her panties in the hall  
For the hostess who's the hostess with the mostes' on  
the ball

[Encore:]

I've been highly complimented  
And I thank you what is more  
You'll be damned well represented  
By your new ambassador  
For my one ambition is to make them fall  
For the hostess with the mostes' on the ball

In the handbag that I'll carry  
There's a precious little note  
To their highnesses from Harry  
Introducing me he wrote:  
"I'll appreciate a favor large or small  
For the hostess with the mostes' on the ball"

There'll be no mistakes, I've got what it takes  
To make friends across the sea  
I'll make being smart an important part  
Of my foreign policy

I'll cement our good relations  
When I give my first affair  
There'll be special invitations  
To the Duke and Duchess there  
Who's already written asking them to call  
Not the priestess with the leastes'  
But the hostess who's the hostess with the mostes' on  
the ball

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