

Times Co. Buys Serial Rights to Nixon Memoirs

The newspaper and magazine serialization rights to the memoirs of former President Richard M. Nixon, now in the process of being completed, have been purchased from Warner Books by The New York Times Company, it was announced yesterday jointly by Sydney Gruson, executive vice president of The Times Company, and William Sarnoff, chairman of Warner Publishing Inc., the parent company of Warner Books. The terms were not disclosed.

Shortly after his resignation on Aug. 9, 1974, Mr. Nixon signed an agreement with Warner Books for the worldwide, complete publication rights to his memoirs.

The first draft of the book is expected to be ready for editing by the end of the year. Publication is planned for the autumn of 1977.

Work Will Be Offered Prior to Warner's Publication of Book in Fall of '77

Special Features, the syndicate affiliate of The Times Company, will handle prepublication serialization. When the book is completed, The Times Company will offer it for serialization to The New York Times and other newspapers.

Events Are Cited

"We feel these memoirs will be of significant historical interest," Mr. Gruson said, "covering an important period of American history in both domestic and foreign developments.

"President Nixon's personal account of Watergate and the events leading to his resigna-

tion, détente with Russia; the reopening of contact with China; the Vietnam War; his efforts to solve the Mideast crisis; the overthrow of the Allende Government in Chile—all will be of immense interest and will be material historians will work from for years to come."

Mr. Sarnoff, who has read parts of the manuscript, said, "They are an intensely moving, personal memoir of events and emotions that could be told only by the man who experienced them."

Mr. Nixon, who now devotes most of his time to working on the memoirs, visited China last February, and that trip will figure in his book.

In the past The Times has published the memoirs of a number of historical figures, including those of General of the Armies John J. Pershing, Cordell Hull, Winston Churchill and Presidents Harry S. Truman and Lyndon B. Johnson.