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Friend Talks

Success To Nixon

SF Chronicle
chicago

Insurance tycoon W. Clement Stone says he talked about positive mental attitude with Richard Nixon in San Clemente, less than 24 hours before he was pardoned.

Stone, who contributed more than \$11 million to Mr. Nixon's presidential campaign, said the ex-President was "in excellent health." He said they did not discuss Mr. Nixon's pardon in their three-hour conversation.

"These reports that he is in ill health are a figment of somebody's imagination," Stone said Sunday night, recalling his three-hour conversation. "He was thinking very clearly. He was able to launch a joke. The man's in excellent health."

He said Mr. Nixon was in a "serious frame of mind," but not despondent, and the two talked about Stone's theories on positive mental attitudes, he says helped make him a multi-millionaire.

Stone said he left copies of his books "Success with a Positive Mental Attitude" and "Success System Never Fails" with the ex-President.

United Press

SF Chronicle

Nixon Health Story Is Denied

Washington

Several persons who have recently visited former President Nixon at his estate in San Clemente cast doubt yesterday on reports that he is in poor health, one of the reasons cited by President Ford Sunday in granting Mr. Nixon an unconditional pardon.

One former counselor to Mr. Nixon said that two of the former President's close friends — C. G. Rebozo and Robert H. Albanalp, who also have visited Mr. Nixon recently — had started the talk that he was on the verge of collapse.

"Those two guys were really lobbying, in effect," the former counselor said, implying that they had sought to arouse sympathy for Mr. Nixon before Mr. Ford's action Sunday.

Paul Presley, manager of the San Clemente Inn, who lives next door to Mr. Nixon, said, "I had heard these reports and read them, and I was concerned like everyone else to see how he was com-

ing along."

Then when he saw Mr. Nixon a few days ago, Presley said, He was surprised to see that the former President looked "super and more relaxed than when he was President."

"He said he had been sunning and walking," Presley added.

Mr. Nixon's brother, F. Donald Nixon of Newport Beach, said when he visited the former President ten days ago that he found him "in extremely good health and spirits; he looked good — tanned and busy."

Yet in Washington yesterday, Republicans close to Mr. Ford said that the reports of Mr. Nixon's poor health were an important factor in the President's decision to grant the pardon.

"I have no doubt in my mind," said Senator Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, the assistant Republican leader in the Senate, "that the condition of the health of the former President was a fac-

tor in the President's mind in reaching his decision."

Mr. Ford, in announcing the pardon, said, "It is common knowledge that serious allegations and accusations hang like a sword over our former President's head, threatening his health, as he tries to reshape his life."

The report circulating in San Clemente and elsewhere was that Mr. Nixon was depressed to the point of wandering aimlessly about his estate, pouring over stacks of unopened mail and unable to keep his mind on a conversation.

Herbert G. Klein, the former White House communications director and long-time friend of Mr. Nixon, said yesterday, "Yes, he's distraught and seems preoccupied at times. Sometimes he wanders in his conversation. But that's to be expected from a man who's been through what he has. I think his health is good and I'm sure his spirits are improved today."

New York Times