

Nixon Helps Out

Camp Pendleton

Former President Nixon tried vainly for an hour to save the lives of three Marines at a fatal traffic accident Thursday, a base spokesman said yesterday.

"Mr. Nixon took charge of the accident scene," said Marine Captain Lou Chatell.

"He directed his Secret Service men to call for a medi-vac unit and one of his aides tried to help one Marine who was still alive."

A spokesman at Mr. Nixon's seaside home in nearby San Clemente confirmed the incident and said the former chief executive stayed at the scene for

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an hour, directing the operation.

A spokesman for Camp Pendleton gave this account:

Mr. Nixon was returning with his son-in-law and daughter, Edward and Tricia Cox, from a Marine Corps golf course Thursday afternoon when the head-on accident took place on the base directly in front of his car.

A Secret Service agent driving the Nixon car stopped and Mr. Nixon asked him to radio for medical aid.

Mr. Nixon and Cox then tried to free a Marine pinned in the wreckage where two other men were dead. Cox used a crowbar, but the third man was pronounced dead at the base hospital five hours later.

Details of the accident were unclear and the incident is under investigation, a base spokesman said.

The dead Marines were identified as Sergeant Davis A. Vandal, 28, of nearby Oceanside; Corporal Ramiro A. Delgado Jr., 20, of San Antonio, Tex., and Sergeant Larry W. Grise, 24, of San Clemente.

Associated Press

CBS Rejects Offer From Nixon Agent

New York

Richard Nixon's literary agent has been turned down by CBS News in an attempt to negotiate a paid television appearance by the former President in which it was proposed that he would talk about his White House years but not the Watergate scandal.

The network, mindful of charges of "checkbook journalism" touched off last March when it paid a large sum to former Nixon aide H. R. Haldeman for two televised interviews by Mike Wallace, cut off the proposal according to CBS News president Richard Salant.

He said that the agent, Irving Lazar, contacted a member of the CBS News staff on Monday with the offer. He had tried to set up a meeting, "but I wasn't interested," Salant said.

The network news chief said he thought it would be proper to pay for a presidential memoir, "but I don't think there could be a memoir without Watergate." Conversely, he added, "if he talked about Watergate, that would be current news, and we don't pay for current news."