

THE PUBLISHER WHO'S GAMBLING ON NIXON

William Sarnoff, whose late founder of RCA, has a signed contract with Richard Nixon for the ex-President's memoirs.

Sarnoff, head of Warner Paperback Library, says, "Mr. Nixon signed the contract in San Clemente in September before he went into the hospital for treatment of his plebitis. Warner's purchased world rights to the work, and we expect a substantial manuscript by April of 1976. It may make one or two volumes. We'll have to wait and see.

"What I will not discuss in any shape, form, or manner are the financial arrangements we've entered into. The deal was nego-



LAZAR AND SARNOFF AT THE SIGNING

tiated by Irving Lazar, Mr. Nixon's agent, and I have been assured that we will get an interesting, vital, and illuminating book by a former President of the United States.

"It's my understanding that in writing his previous book, 'Six Crises,' Nixon was helped by Warren Moscow, formerly of the New York Times. Who if anyone is going to help

him on this book I have no idea. He's a man who's already written a million or more words by himself, and we expect that he will author his own book.

"You say that Lyndon Johnson's memoirs were ghosted by several of his former White House aides? That may well be, but I'm sure that won't be the case with Nixon. He may use various assistants and secretaries to organize his papers and tapes, but I repeat, it's our understanding that he will do the actual writing himself.

"What happens if he can't get hold of his papers and tapes? What happens if the court delays transfer of the materials because the Watergate Special Prosecutor needs them? That's none of our business. Warner's is not involved in that. We're really not inter-

ested in how or from what Mr. Nixon writes his book. He can write it from memory or tapes or papers or interviews. What we're interested in is getting a publishable manuscript by the Spring of 1976.

"How much of an advance did we give him? I'm not about to tell you. Is \$2 million the total price for world rights to all rights? No comment on that either.

"Is it safe to assume that Mr. Nixon is not writing the book for his own health? I would say that's a safe assumption, but to play it safe, you'd better ask Mr. Nixon."

In publishing circles the rumor is that Mr. Nixon has already received a \$500,000 advance on his memoirs and will receive further payments of \$1.5 million as he produces the manuscript with the aid of a writer yet to be named.