

Signing Nixon For TV Interviews

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By Robert Meyers

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LOS ANGELES—Former President Richard M. Nixon has agreed to participate in four 90-minute television shows for an amount of money inside speculation places at about 1 million. The shows will be broadcast after the 1976 election according to TV personality David Frost, who signed the agreement Saturday.

In a hastily called press conference, Frost fingered the 13-page contract he said was signed by Nixon Saturday between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., almost one year to the hour after Nixon resigned as President.

"The former President does not wish to appear to intervene in the 1976 elections," Frost said, in revealing the tentative broadcast time. "I sensed he's ready to start reflecting on his life and times . . . No subject, including Watergate, has been barred."

Frost said he had "an informal arrangement" to look at Nixon's written memoirs on which he is currently working.

"Whether that means the book, the galleys, or a box of childhood photos, I don't know," Frost said. The terms and specific details of the payments were not revealed. The National

Broadcasting Company, however, is reported to have dropped out of the bidding for Nixon interviews when the asking price reached \$750,000.

Frost said he will act as executive producer for a "consortium of international broadcast organizations." He said he could not name names because many of the agreements are of a verbal nature. Frost said as many as 20 interview sessions at San Clemente will be conducted in order to get the four 90-minute shows.

"I was astonished at how physically well" Nixon looked, Frost noted. "All of the old vigor was there."

Frost claimed Nixon has no editorial control whatsoever over any aspect of any of the programs.

The negotiations began in earnest several months ago with agreements being reached last week, Frost said he immediately flew from Europe and arrived at San Clemente on Saturday. "I spent 5½ hours with Mr. Nixon personally," Frost said. "He led us on a strenuous tour of the house for discussion of possible areas for filming. He was very fit."

Frost said Nixon was represented by agent Irving ("Swifty") Lazar, and a lawyer from the Los Angeles law firm headed by Dean Butler, the lawyer who had represented him on tax matters in the past.

Frost acknowledged that he had several rivals for the right to interview the former President "and not all of them were Americans," however he would not detail who the rivals might be.