

Hiring of Donald Nixon Symbol

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To hear Marriott executives tell it, former President Nixon's brother, F. Donald Nixon, was just one of the boys when he worked for the Marriott Corp.

"I'll tell you this," said one, "he worked like everyone else. He worked hard."

But he didn't get his job through personnel. Instead, Marriott sources said, the former president's brother was hired as a vice president as a favor to Mr. Nixon who wanted to keep his younger brother out of trouble.

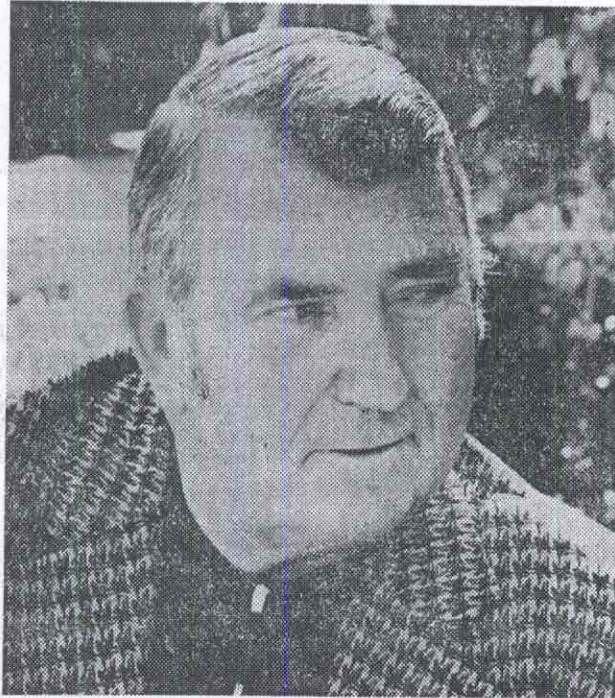
"He wanted him where there would be no conflict of interest," a Marriott source said.

While at Marriott, the 59-year-old Nixon occasionally made news. In 1970, for instance, he and the president of Marriott's in-flight division, Jerald O. Jarrard dined with leaders of the Greek military junta. Marriott had an in-flight facility in Athens and Nixon had a brother in the White House.

Marriott spokesmen dismiss as nonsense repeated charges that Nixon was used to Gardner business—especially firms that did business or were regulated by the government, like airlines.

"Donald Nixon never, but never, negotiated a contract," said Marriott vice president Thomas Burke. Burke conceded that having a vice president on the payroll named Nixon didn't hurt either.

"Don had been active in



Associated Press

F. Donald Nixon: "He worked hard" for Marriott

business and his name is Nixon," said Burke. "A lot of businessmen know Don and that included airline people."

Nixon's job at Marriott, according to Burke, included scouting possible sites for restaurants and hotels. He worked out of Newport Beach, Calif. Last April, following three months of illness, Nixon opted for early retirement. He retained con-

sultant status until the end of the year.

When Nixon left the firm, Marriott announced that the retirement was due to Nixon's illness—and to staff cutbacks forced by the energy crisis.

Regardless of Nixon's real value to the company, J. Willard Marriott was just the man the former President would turn to for a favor. The elder Marriott had long been a Republican

stalwart—the man Mr. Nixon chose to run both his inaugurations. But despite what appeared to be a close relationship, Marriott sources insisted the two men were never real friends and that their relationship was formal and businesslike.

Neither Marriott nor his son, J. Willard Marriott Jr., would talk about the family's relationship with Mr. Nixon nor their feeling now that he has resigned. It is known that the elder Marriott considers Mr. Nixon's actions concerning Watergate to have been clumsy—and inexcusable.

Republicanism runs deep in the Marriott family. Marriott himself traces it to the free trade issue when his father, a sugar beet farmer and rancher, opted for tariffs and the GOP, fearing that sugar prices would plummet under the Democrats.

In addition, the Marriotts literally married into Washington's Republican establishment. In 1930, Alice Marriott's widowed mother married Sen. Reed Smoot (R-Utah), a major force in the GOP. The couple, held in town at the insistence of President Hoover, honeymooned at the White House when the Marriotts frequently joined them for breakfast.

With the success of the Marriott organization, the Marriotts became friends and benefactors of prominent Republican politicians. A glance at Marriott's office

ized Marriott Ties to President

is enough to convince one of that. In addition to portraits of Mormon church leaders, are pictures of former Michigan Gov. George Romney, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard M. Nixon and President Gerald Ford and a painting by Eisenhower.

Marriott's first up-front role in American politics came with Romney's presidential campaign. Marriott not only contributed to his boyhood friends and fellow-Mormon's presidential effort, but he served as an adviser. In 1968, when the Romney campaign collapsed, Marriott swung to Mr. Nixon.

Like her husband, Alice Marriott long has been active in Republican affairs and served as the Republican national committee-

woman from the District of Columbia.

In addition to F. Donald Nixon, Marriotts has offered employment to other Nixon-era figures. Both Sally Harmony and Jeb Stuart Magruder worked for the inaugural committee and Mrs. Harmony, the former secretary to G. Gordon Liddy, was brought into the Marriott organization itself. She serves now as secretary to corporate vice president Thomas Burke.

Marriott's political convictions, but not his activism, have been passed to his son. Bill Marriott, characteristically, has no time for politics.

"I have too much to do here . . ." he said. "How the hell am I going to have time to do political work?"

—RICHARD M. COHEN.



SALLY HARMONY
... Marriott secretary



JEB STUART MAGRUDER
... worked on inaugural