

Celebrities Honor Nixon At Party by Annenberg

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PALM DESERT, Calif., Feb. 22 (UPI)—Rich and famous friends of Richard M. Nixon gathered today to honor the former President at a celebrity-packed party at a millionaire's estate here.

Mr. Nixon and his wife Patricia drove Wednesday to the desert home of Walter H. Annenberg, Ambassador to Britain during the Nixon Administration.

Word of the sentencing of four of his former top aides in the Watergate scandal reached Mr. Nixon yesterday as he relaxed behind the guarded walls of the estate. He did not issue a statement.

Among those reported on the guest list for tonight's party were Frank Sinatra; Bob Hope; former Gov. Ronald Reagan and his wife; Leonard Firestone of the tire-making family, and Leonard Swearingen, chairman of the board of Standard Oil of Indiana.

It was Mr. Nixon's first break from the self-imposed isolation of his villa at San Clemente since he left office last Aug. 9 except for hospitalization at Long Beach.

The former President underwent surgery last November

during a hospital stay for treatment of phlebitis of his left leg. He came close to death from postoperative shock and subsequently suffered a series of ills, including partial lung collapse and pneumonia. His doctors said he was too ill to testify, or file affidavits, at the Watergate cover-up trial.

The former President has been slowly returning to social activities at San Clemente with small dinner parties for such were Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Kissinger, the Reagans and close friends.

Mr. Nixon last visited the Annenberg estate a year ago while still in office. He was expected to return to San Clemente tomorrow.

'A Quiet, Private Dinner'

PALM SPRINGS, Calif., Feb. 22 (AP) — Mr. Annenberg said today that the party was "a very quiet private dinner" for "old, intimate friends of mine and the former President."

"Mr. Nixon is my weekend guest," Mr. Annenberg said. "He is resting and enjoying the sunshine. I urged him to hit a few golf balls, which he did, but he hasn't tried to play any golf as such."