

Nixon Renews Friendships By Telephone

By William Chapman
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Isolated from the public at his California estate, former President Nixon has resumed some political friendships with a series of telephone calls around the country.

At least four members of Congress vacationing at home with Congress out of session, have received calls from the former President, now residing at San Clemente.

On Monday, he called Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery (D-Mass.) to chat about what Montgomery called a "personal matter" and to urge support for his successor, President Ford.

"He said that I should get behind Jerry Ford and that Congress should support him, too," Montgomery said in a telephone interview from Mississippi.

Mr. Nixon was not seeking any help for his personal and legal problems and did not mention the possibility of his being prosecuted by Water-

gate Special Prosecutor Loen Jaworski, Montgomery added.

Montgomery described the former President's mood as "quiet, dignified."

"He said he was trying to get his private papers worked out," Montgomery added. "I asked him if I could have an autographed picture of him, and he said they didn't have any of those things out there."

Mr. Nixon had referred obliquely to his legal situation when he called, Rep. Dan Kuykendall (R-Tenn.). According to Kuykendall, Mr. Nixon had said he had "problems" with Jaworski and added, "Do you think the jackals want to pick the carcass?"

Two others with whom Mr. Nixon has talked are Rep. F. Edward Hebert (D-La.) and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.).

Hebert said he had been called by Mr. Nixon Monday in New Orleans. "It was a private conversation and that's all I'm going to say," Hebert said.

Helms, in Raleigh, N.C., confirmed he received a call from the former President but declined to discuss it.

In Sacramento, Calif., Gov. Ronald Reagan told reporters Tuesday he had called Mr. Nixon a couple of days after his resignation Aug. 9 to welcome him back to California.

Reagan described it as "purely a courtesy call" and said of Mr. Nixon, "He seemed to be fine."