

Nixon Continues to Brood Over Woes

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

A melancholy Richard M. Nixon still spends most of his time, according to close friends, by himself brooding over his plight. Apparently, he just keeps turning over in his mind the mistakes that brought his presidency to an inglorious end.

His ability to withstand new problems, they said, has been weakened. One Saturday morning, he wrote a check that almost drained his bank account. "His blood pressure fluctuated that day to a dangerous point," a Nixon intimate told us.

Another time, he was working on an outline for his book when he lost a round in his court fight to gain custody of his presidential papers. "He suffered so much," said a friend, "that he couldn't continue with the outline for a few days."

Early in his exile, he felt a compulsion to talk to people and began making long-distance calls to friends around the country. They remember his calls as aimless and rambling.

But lately, he has shut off contact with all but a few close friends. These friends thought it would be good for him to get

out, and millionaire Walter H. Annenberg offered to throw a party for him at Palm Springs, Calif. Nixon agreed to go only after lengthy bickering over the guest list. It was finally cut from 50 to about 20, whom Nixon personally cleared.

"Nixon holds too much inside," suggested one friend. "He is like a boiler without a steam vent." This friend noted that Nixon always remembered every slight, every injury ever done to him. It was a trait he began developing as a small boy.

His brother Donald once recalled that Nixon "wouldn't argue much with me . . . But once, when he had had just about as much of me as he could take, he cut loose and kept at it for a half to three quarters of an hour. He went back a year or two listing things I had done. He didn't leave out a thing. I was only 8 and he was 10."

It was this mentality, the friend suggested, that led to the White House enemies list.

Rabbi Baruch Korff, who is raising legal funds for Nixon, describes him as "a very troubled man. The man is visibly distressed," the Rabbi told us.

He has tried to comfort the former President by reminding

him that the sunrise always follows the sunset and that "God in His infinite wisdom purposely put the night before the day."

Commuting Consultant—Richard Royce is a man of many interests.

He gave up a job as director of the Senate Public Works Committee Staff and opened private consulting businesses in Washington and Miami. This still left him enough time to serve as a \$17,000-a-year consultant for the House Public Works Committee.

A check of his travel records shows that his trips between Miami and Washington usually are paid by the taxpayers. During January and February of 1974, for example, Royce was paid for seven round trips between the two cities. His travel for the two months cost the taxpayers almost \$2,500.

This ring-around-the-rosy, of course, enables Royce to commute between his two far-flung firms at the taxpayers' expense. "I was a consultant, and I lived in Florida, and the travel was approved," Royce told us. He denied his triple occupations represented a conflict of interest.

Air Force Flyovers—As part of our Watch on Waste series, we

have flyovers waste not only money but fuel.

When Gen. J. C. Meyer retired as chief of the Strategic Air Command last summer, for example, he was honored by a flyover of several planes that were flown to Nebraska for the occasion from as far away as California, Michigan and New York.

But Gen. David Jones the Air Force chief, has now put a stop to this waste. In a message to all commands, he has directed:

"As a follow-up of discussions at the recent commanders' conference on the need for austerity and the need to demonstrate to the American public that retirement flyovers will be conducted only in very unusual circumstances and never when the sole purpose is to recognize an individual.

"Any retirement flyover will require personal approval of the Air Force Chief of Staff, and fuel expenditures will be a key consideration in any decision. No retirement flyovers are planned or contemplated for the remainder of this year."

Just before the message was issued, a general in the Panama Canal Zone had scheduled a flyover for October. The ceremony has now been quietly dropped.