

The Brothers Nixon: Close but Not Equal

F. Donald, Edward Remain Outside the President's Circle

By WALLACE TURNER
Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO — Frank and Hannah had five sons. One died of tuberculosis. One died of meningitis. One has been a seaman. One has had several jobs, including that of a Navy helicopter pilot. And one is the President of the United States.

Richard Nixon, as have other American Presidents, has close ties with his family. But unlike, say, the Kennedys, the surviving Nixons did not become major public figures while one brother was ascending to the Presidency.

And, although the President has been close to his brothers, they are not members of the intimate circle of his close advisers. Nor do they gather when the President brings his friends together.

The name of F. Donald Nixon, who is 57 years old, has been known to the public for more than a decade, but only recently did national attention focus on Edward C. Nixon, 42.

Edward Nixon attracted attention about a month ago, when it was disclosed that he had played a role in the delivery of a \$200,000 campaign contribution to the Committee for the Re-election of the President last year.

The contribution was from Robert L. Vesco, whose financial empire now is in tatters and under close scrutiny by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

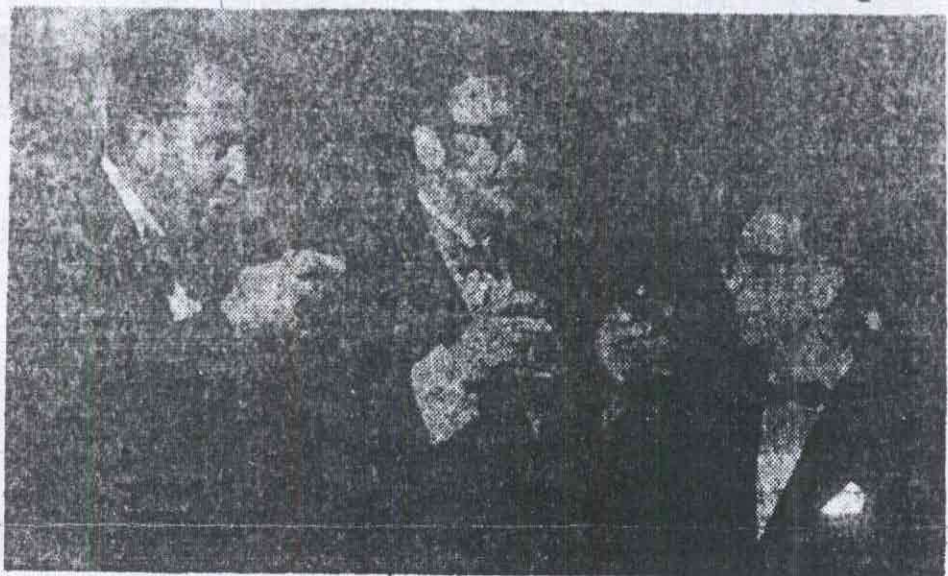
It was disclosed last month that in April, 1972, Edward Nixon, who was paid \$1,755 a month to work for his brother's re-election, was flown by helicopter from New York to the New Jersey headquarters of Mr. Vesco's International Controls Corporation.

Cash or Check

Among other things, Edward Nixon was asked while there whether the Vesco contribution should be made in cash or by check. Edward Nixon said to make it in cash, according to testimony of one of Mr. Vesco's lawyers. The money was delivered about April 10, 1972.

The transaction was later tarnished by a dispute over whether the contribution had been properly reported under a Federal law that went into effect on April 7, 1972. The contribution was returned to Mr. Vesco last Jan. 31 after The Washington Star-News raised similar questions.

Senator Charles McClellan said the contribution was a full \$100,000.



F. Donald Nixon, left, a younger brother of President Nixon, toasting Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, President of the Dominican Republic, during a visit in 1969. Between them is John H. Meier, a former employe of Howard Hughes.

that time chief of Mr. Hughes's Nevada operations, ordered Mr. Meier to stay away from the President's brother.

A few weeks later, Mr. Reppo again called Las Vegas. In a furious voice, he demanded to know why his previous demand had been ignored. He brushed aside protests, and said that even at that moment, Mr. Meier and F. Donald Nixon were together in Santa Ana, Calif.

The Hughes people found that this was true. Within a few days, Mr. Meier's resignation was requested and accepted.

The relationship between Mr. Meier and F. Donald Nixon continued. In late 1969, they were together in Santo Domingo, where Mr. Meier and others were attempting to negotiate for mining rights in the Dominican Republic. Whatever the significance of Mr. Nixon's presence, the negotiations were inconclusive.

When F. Donald Nixon filed for bankruptcy in 1961, he was a sales manager for the Carnation Company. He has said that, from 1963 through 1968, he was president of a Southern California marketing consulting firm. In 1969, he was president of Ogden Foods, Inc.

But in 1970, soon after his trip to Santo Domingo with Mr. Meier, F. Donald Nixon became a vice president of the Marriott Corporation, controlled by J. Willard Marriott, who founded his fortune on the Hot Shoppe chain in Washington, D.C.

Major Contributor

To knowledgeable observers of the capital, there never was suspicion that Mr. Marriott urged F. Donald Nixon to open the doors to the White House. Mr. Marriott has been a major contributor for

Pensacola, Fla., to Seattle and became an instructor at the University of Washington's Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps.

The Edward Nixons have lived around Seattle ever since. Their home is in the Lynwood section of Edmonds, Wash., north of Seattle.

Mrs. Nixon, the former Gay Lynne Woods of New Orleans, obtained her teaching credentials through study at the University of Washington and now teaches math at a junior high school.

Worked in '68 Campaign

Edward Nixon left the Navy in 1962, and for 15 months worked for Pacific Northwest Bell, an affiliate of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, before taking an extended leave from which he did not return. He worked in his brother's Presidential campaign in 1968.

During the 1972 Presidential

ly hoped it would be a vehicle for providing help to industrial concerns that had pollution problems. But he added that the company was never successful.

Mr. Giannini said that Edward Nixon never received any money from Ecoforum, either in salary or expenses. He also said that a research grant issued to him last year was not held by Ecoforum, and that Edward Nixon had no role in getting it or carrying it out, and did not share in any money from it. Mr. Giannini said Edward Nixon had never approached any government agency in their behalf.

Two groups are competing for the chance to buy into the National Football League franchise with a team to play in a stadium built in downtown Seattle. One group is primarily local, and the other is led by Wayne Field, a Minneapolis nursing home operator who is backed by investors from Minnesota and Oregon. Hugh McElhenny, the former University of Washington halfback and N.F.L. star of the nineteen-fifties would be general manager.

Letter From Edward

Last month each of the present N.F.L. owners, who will select the Seattle operator, received a letter from Edward Nixon that said:

"It is a delight for me to announce that I have joined Wayne Field and Hugh McElhenny as one of the new owners of the Seattle Kings . . . my family has had an intense interest in all sports—but especially in professional football—for many years, and I am looking with great pleasure to being associated with the Seattle Kings in the years ahead."

No one will say what Edward Nixon's contribution is to the football club.

Black a... case full of... bills were... a case in the office of Maurice H. Stans, former Secretary of Commerce and then chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President.

During the trial of the Watergate gang conspirators, there was testimony that \$100 bills out of Mr. Stans's safe were given to G. Gordon Liddy, who was the paymaster for his group that tapped telephones and planted microphones in the Democratic National Committee offices at the Watergate complex.

President's Nephew

Donald A. Nixon, the President's 26-year-old nephew, has been an aide to Mr. Vesco for about two years. He is the son of F. Donald Nixon, who declined to discuss any of his business and political activities or those of his son or his brother. Edward, when he was reached by telephone at his home in Newport Beach, Calif. Efforts to talk to Edward Nixon have not been successful.

F. Donald Nixon emerged as a national figure in 1960, when it was disclosed that Howard Hughes, the billionaire recluse, had lent him \$205,000 in a futile effort to rescue Nixon's Inc., a chain of inexpensive restaurants that F. Donald Nixon operated in Southern California.

The disclosure of the transaction is believed to have contributed to the defeat of Richard Nixon's Presidential campaign in 1960.

Despite the loan, F. Donald Nixon filed for bankruptcy in 1961, owing his creditors \$206,000. The loan was again a campaign issue in 1962, when Richard Nixon ran and was defeated for Governor of California.

Political Danger

Noah Dietrich, chief executive of Mr. Hughes's affairs when the loan was made, said in his memoirs published last year that he had warned Richard Nixon of the political danger.

He said the then Vice President replied:

"I have so put my relatives ahead of my career."

The President and his family are silent about his relations with his brothers. But other sources have indicated that the President is concerned about F. Donald Nixon.

Between 1966 and 1970, when Mr. Hughes was living in Las Vegas, Nev., F. Donald Nixon met John Meier, a Hughes employee who has been involved in many controversies.

In the summer of 1969 a call came to the Hughes headquarters from Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, the Florida investor who is one of President Nixon's closest friends.

Mr. Rebozo reportedly demanded that the Hughes people order Mr. Meier to stay away from F. Donald Nixon.

"Meier will get him in trouble," Mr. Rebozo was quoted as

Mr. Marriott has been a major Republican contributor for years, and was chairman of the committee that arranged the President's inauguration that year.

"Marriott can see the President anytime he wants," said one man with connections to the White House and the Marriott organization. "Why should he pay Don Nixon a salary to get next to the White House?"

F. Donald Nixon continues to get unfavorable publicity. Last year, Jack Anderson, the columnist, reported that F. Donald Nixon had an interest in a company that was building prefabricated housing for the Air Force.

"This fellow is very irresponsible when it comes to printing the facts and knowing the case and knowing what he's printing," the President's brother said of Mr. Anderson in a telephone conversation last week. Otherwise, he would not comment and refused to be interviewed.

Minor Stockholder

Records on file in the S.E.C. office in Los Angeles show that F. Donald Nixon has been a vice president and minor stockholder in San/Bar, Inc., which owns about 21 per cent of the stock of Hallamore Homes, Inc., the company that had a \$4.7-million subcontract to build housing for the Air Force. F. Donald Nixon held 200 shares of San/Bar, out of 601,200 outstanding.

President Nixon's relationship with his brother Edward is far different than with F. Donald. Edward Nixon is almost 18 years younger; one man said the President, who is 60, seems to treat his little brother like a nephew.

The President indicated deep affection for Edward Nixon in a statement to a reporter who covered the 1968 Nixon campaign. Richard Nixon said, as he two watched the younger brother walk away after the reporter had been introduced to him:

"Some day it would be nice if you did a story on Ed. Everybody is always doing stories on the Kennedys. We're not the Kennedys, but Ed is a very nice fellow."

A Federal Job

In April 1969, it was announced that Edward Nixon had been made director of the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska—a \$30,000-a-year job. On a Monday, Edward Nixon and his wife and their two daughters arrived in Anchorage—and on Tuesday night they returned to Seattle. Someone had discovered that the President was prevented by a 1967 law from naming his relatives in Federal jobs.

Edward Nixon received a bachelor's degree in geology from Duke University and a master's from North Carolina State University. He then went into the Navy, where he became a helicopter instructor. In July,



United Press International
Edward C. Nixon campaigning in Kansas for his brother last year.

campaign, Edward Nixon was paid \$1,755 a month by the Committee for the re-election of the President. Committee officials said that he was on leave from his company, Ecoforum, Inc., which was described as an environmental information service for industrial corporations.

In 1969, Edward Nixon became a director of the Oceanographic Mutual Fund, but he left that when it got into trouble with the S.E.C. last year. He said he was not involved in any of the "gross misconduct" practices charged by investigators.

Unsuccessful Company

Ecoforum originally was incorporated in 1962 as a vehicle for the consultancy work done by University of Washington professors. Valerio Gianrini, a Los Angeles man who is the son of a well-to-do physicist-industrialist, became president of Ecoforum in 1969.

Edward Nixon was vice president of the company. Mr. Gianrini, who operates Ecoforum from his apartment in the Westwood section of Los Angeles, said that he had original-

the football club.

"I don't know how much he owns," said William M. Hunt of Portland, Ore., one of the investors. "He's just there. I've met him and he seems to be a nice enough person. I don't even know what business he is in. Of course, he has a good name."

Mr. Field said in an interview in Minneapolis that the Nixon name "obviously isn't going to hurt us." Mr. Field added that the main reason he wanted the new partner was to counter assertions that the Field Group was made up of outsiders, but he also noted that Edward Nixon "has pretty good contacts, both in Seattle and all over the Country."

Last week, when the N.F.L. owners met in Phoenix, Mr. Field had a group there to try to persuade them to select his club for the Seattle franchise. Both Edward and F. Donald Nixon were there to help him, he said, and after the meetings they went to San Clement, but did not see their brother.