

Nixon offered defense

F Post

10-11-74

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department has offered to continue to defend former President Richard M. Nixon in civil suits pending against him, a department spokesman acknowledged Thursday.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Henry Petersen made the offer to Nixon's lawyer, Herbert J. Miller, but there was no immediate indication of whether the offer has been accepted.

A Justice Department spokesman said the proposal also would apply to any

future civil suits filed against Nixon "if the department determines that Nixon was acting within the scope of his authority" at the time of the actions that gave rise to the suits.

The spokesman declined to specify what civil suits are pending against Nixon, though the former president has been sued by several former administration officials who were wiretapped under White House orders during the Nixon years.