

Nixon To Sell His Memoirs For \$2 Million

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NEW YORK (AP) — Literary agent Irving Lazar said Sunday former President Nixon has authorized him to negotiate the sale of his memoirs for what will probably be over \$2 million in advance payments.

"He wants to be a part of things, to make a contribution in the quest for peace, to make his voice heard loud and clear," Lazar said in a telephone interview. "I think it will be heard loud and clear."

Lazar said he clinched the deal during a three-hour meeting with Nixon at San Clemente, Calif., on Saturday, Aug. 31.

"I think he's going to tell one of the great stories of all time. After all, he's the only man in the world who really knows what happened about Watergate," Lazar said.

"His book will be candid, honest and honorable about the events of Watergate. It will be a true, historical portrayal, especially of the great things he has done in the quest for peace."

Lazar said Nixon would write at San Clemente, "but when he will go to work, I don't know." He said the starting date for writing would depend on such things as whether Nixon will have to appear as a witness at a Watergate trial Sept. 29.

Lazar, who also represents such writers as Theodore White of the "Making of the President" series, Vladimir Nabokov, Françoise Sagan and historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., said Nixon's income from the book would depend on sales.

He said a sale in paperback of 10 million copies "would not be extraordinary. If it's a big hit, that's not a lot of copies. The public's interest in nonfiction is much greater than in fiction. They want to know what's going on."

Lazar also predicted a hard-cover sale of at least 500,000 copies.

Such sales, he said, should certainly bring Nixon over \$2 million and "it's customary for

the first payment to be made before the author starts writing and the rest in installments."

He said the authorization to negotiate with publishers, which Nixon gave him, calls for one, two or three volumes beginning with the former president's childhood and going through his career "including his accomplishments for peace and the events of Watergate."