

The Washington Merry-Go-Round**Nixon Becomes Admirer of Truman****By Jack Anderson**

President Nixon has told friends he is sorry for the way he treated President Harry Truman back in the 1940s.

The shoe was on the other foot in those days. Richard Nixon was the investigating congressman demanding White House files. He used malignant innuendo to suggest that Truman was soft on communism.

"The only way to save America," thundered young Nixon, "is to get rid of Trumanism ... or whatever ism with which you choose to tag the whole sorry mess."

More and more. Mr. Nixon feels a kinship with the late Truman. Both were tough campaigners and outspoken partisans. Both were stubbornly loyal to their friends. Both once failed in a business, and both played the piano.

It is painful for Mr. Nixon to admit a mistake, his friends acknowledge. But sometimes he wishes Harry Truman were still alive so he could apologize to him for the excesses of the 1940s.

Labor and Narcotics—One of America's most esteemed labor leaders is identified in Justice Department documents as the long-time friend of a major figure in world narcotics traffic to the United States.

The union official is Irving J. Brown, justly famed as a bulwark of free unionism against

government-run Communist "unions." As AFL-CIO head in Europe and Africa, the 61-year-old Brown has labored for decades to better the lives of oppressed workers.

Yet, in what seems like almost another life, he has befriended and housed France's notorious Maurice (Broken Head) Castellani, and occasionally enters the twilight circle of other shadowy figures who operate the heroin pipeline to America.

The 49-year-old Castellani is identified in a classified Justice Department document as one of "the triumvirate leadership of the 'Trois Canards' (Three Ducks), an underworld organization involved in numerous illicit financial enterprises, not the least of which is narcotics."

Castellani's charm and dapper appearance has gained him entree to the presidential palace in Italy, the Justice narcotics agents have reported. His friends say a beating by the Gestapo for trying to transport Jews to freedom got him the nickname "Broken Head." And his skill in smuggling narcotics has earned him eight single-spaced pages with addenda in a secret Justice Department file headed: "GF: Maurice Castellani."

Larded through this file are references to Brown, beginning with trans-Atlantic telephone calls between the two men al-

most a decade ago. When in New York Castellani seldom had to look for hotels. As the report put it, "Brown ... made (his) apartment available to Castellani whenever Castellani was in New York City."

Working from the apartment, Castellani met with Joseph Zurita, a Tangiers-and-Casablanca-based smuggler, or dropped in on his old pal, Francois Scaglia, an unlucky narcotics bigwig then doing time in New York's infamous Attica prison. The Justice report says Castellani was bringing "substantial amounts of money" for the jailed Scaglia.

Gradually, the friendship of the AFL-CIO's top European man with the narcotics magnate began to worry federal "narcs." They visited Brown and reported he "was receptive and readily answered questions (but) Brown did not provide any significant information..."

However, the labor official agreed to permit the federal sleuths to bug his apartment. The Justice report notes gloomily that "no audible tapes were obtained."

Despite the agents' warning that Castellani was deep in narcotics, the trusting Brown let the smuggler keep a key to his apartment. The agents kept a weather eye on the flat.

Finding Castellani there one day, they popped in unexpect-

edly to interview him. The suave Castellani surprised them by agreeing "tentatively to cooperate." Yet this, too, turned into a dry hole.

Meanwhile, fearful that Brown's United Nations affiliation through the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions would be used by him as "a possible smuggling route," the agents began to "monitor" him. Though U.S. Customs helped in the probe, Justice reported "negative results."

When we reached Brown by telephone in Paris, he charged the Justice Department report was "guilt by association." But in a long trans-Atlantic talk, he went through it with us point by point.

The agents themselves had asked him not to alert Castellani by breaking off their friendship, he insisted. He later conceded he had made no report to the "narcs" since the late '60s. In any case, he said, they had never proved to his satisfaction that Castellani was in narcotics, and Castellani had denied it to him.

When asked whether a man in his sensitive and important role should continue a decade-long friendship with a narcotics king-pin, Brown politely but firmly said no one was going to choose his friends for him.