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'Old Friend' Is Serving on Nixon's Staff

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 22—President Nixon has installed an old hometown neighbor, Roger E. Johnson, an oilman, on the White House staff to serve as a liaison with the President's friends in the business community.

Mr. Johnson, 64 years old, occupies an office in the executive Office Building across the street from the White House. He joined the staff in September, but Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary, did not announce his presence until today.

In an interview, the soft-

spoken Mr. Johnson said he had no intention of representing the views of the oil industry, although before his retirement last summer he was serving as executive vice president and general counsel of the international division of the Superior Oil Company, a Texas-based concern.

"My job is really quite simple," he said. "It is to keep in touch with the President's friends, people he would like to see but doesn't have the time to, and get their views circulating around the White House."

Mr. Johnson said he was

first approached about the job last summer, when he was working in London, by Rosemark Woods, the President's confidential secretary. Miss Woods said the President had been troubled by continuing reports that he had isolated himself from various points of view and that even some of his old friends in private life were having trouble getting through to him.

Later, he received a similar call from H. R. Haldeman, Mr. Nixon's top administrative aide, and then the President himself invited Mr. Johnson to Washington for a chat.

"He said he wanted an old

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friend for this job," Mr. Johnson recalled, "somebody he knew was sure to be loyal."

Mr. Johnson would not give the names of those who had called him with messages or advice or complaints for the President to hear, but he said that most of his callers seemed to be concerned about the economy.

He said he usually reduced his conversations to memorandums, which he then sends to Peter M. Flanigan, an assistant to the President who keeps in close touch with the financial community; Charles

Colson, Mr. Nixon's liaison with special-interest groups; Mr. Haldeman, and occasionally Mr. Nixon himself.

Disclaiming any major policy-making role, Mr. Johnson said he had seen the President "only a couple of times" in the Oval Office of the White House since September, but had accompanied him to Camp David twice and to the Virgin Islands early this month.

Mr. Johnson said he had moved to Mr. Nixon's hometown of Whittier, Calif., in 1917, and got to know the Nixon family. He said he had

seen the Nixons frequently during the late 1940's and through the Eisenhower era, when he worked here as a representative of the Superior Oil Company.