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Nixon Night on the Town

Key Biscayne, Fla.

President Nixon went out to a Coral Gables restaurant last night and later topped off his outing with a nostalgic visit to an ice cream parlor he used to frequent as Vice President.

Mr. Nixon was in high spirits as he dined with his Florida friend Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo and White House counsel Charles Colson in a Spanish-style restaurant, "The Hasta."

The presidential party selected cold stone crabs, broiled Florida pompano and crabmeat pate.

The President was taking time out from two days of meetings at the Florida White House but Colson said it wasn't all relaxation when asked if it was a working dinner.

"The President is always working," Colson said.

A man who was dining at the restaurant told the President it was his 59th birth-

day and he wanted a picture with Mr. Nixon as a present. Mr. Nixon summoned the White House photographer.

He joshed his longtime friend, "Rebozo's 59; he looks like 80."

Mr. Nixon also talked with the chef, Jimmy Hee, who was born in Canton, China.

"I love the Chinese . . . the Chinese are the ablest people in the world," Mr. Nixon said.

After dinner, the Presi-

dent drove over to a nearby ice cream stand.

Rebozo went inside to purchase coconut ice cream topped with pineapple, a favorite concoction he said the President used to buy frequently when he was vice president.

Rebozo had to stand in line with the early evening customers.

"We used to have a little pull here," he said.

Associated Press