

# Nixons Arrive to Vote One Minute Before Polls Open

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**SAN CLEMENTE, Nov. 3** —

President Nixon voted early today, saying he thought Republicans would "do better" this year than the usual off-year showing of the party in power.

The President, who was dressed in a blue suit, Mrs. Nixon, in a red suit, and their daughter Tricia, in a white suit, turned up at the Concordia School in San Clemente today at 6:59 A.M., one minute before the polls opened.

All three then marked large blue ballots and dropped them through the slot of a large cardboard box. Presumably, Mr. Nixon voted a straight Republican ticket, which is headed here by Gov. Ronald Reagan and Senator George Murphy. This was no doubt the case with his wife and daughter, too.

"I think I know how everyone's going to vote," Mr. Nixon said.

### 'I Think We Will Do Better'

The President then drove to a local firehouse to thank the 21 volunteers and three full-time members who had helped extinguish a small blaze in the President's San Clemente residence late Thursday night. He gave Fire Chief Merton Hackett a key ring with the Presidential seal as a memento.

Then, in response to re-

porters' questions, Mr. Nixon refused to make a specific prediction on the outcome of today's voting, but said in part:

"I think we will do better than the general off-year party. As you know, the off-year tradition is that the Presidency loses Senators, Congressmen and Governors. We will do better than that. How much better will depend on what has happened."

Meanwhile, the controversy over what did and did not happen to the President's limousine during last Thursday's demonstration at San Jose continued here.

San Jose police Chief J. Raymond Blackmore — who was quoted on the day after the incident as saying that only "an act of God" saved the President — was quoted in some morning papers today as saying that the incident was less serious and that Mr. Nixon and his car had not been the target of rocks.

Newsmen here, whose own press buses were hit by rocks, then asked to see the Presidential limousine. There were at least a dozen nicks, scratches and indentations, which, the Secret Service said, were inflicted Thursday night. One depression in the car's vinyl roof seemed large enough to have been caused by half a brick or some other object larger than a stone.

There was also a slight dent in the aluminum trim on the driver's door. Secret Service

Special Agent Andrew Hutch, the driver of the car during the motorcade, said that he had found small particles of brick in a trough in the door below the dent.

In addition to the inspection tour the limousine, the White House also provided two statements. Early today, Press Secretary Ronald I. Ziegler insisted that despite what San Jose's police chief had said, "the President's car and motorcade came under a barrage of rocks as it left the San Jose auditorium."

The Secret Service, meanwhile, in another unusual gesture, issued a special statement signed by Assistant Director of Protective Forces, Lilburne Boggs. The statement said that the car had been struck by "rocks, eggs and other foreign objects in substantial quantities," and that the car still shows "indentations that could only have been caused by other hard objects."

Newsmen here believe that some of the scratches may have been caused by the President's penchant for standing on his car to wave at motorcade crowds, but there is little doubt in most minds that some foreign objects more durable than eggs struck the car in some places during a few brief moments in San Jose Thursday night.

### Agnew Sees G.O.P. Gains

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**TOWSON, Md** — President