

'Blood & Guts' Nixon Idol

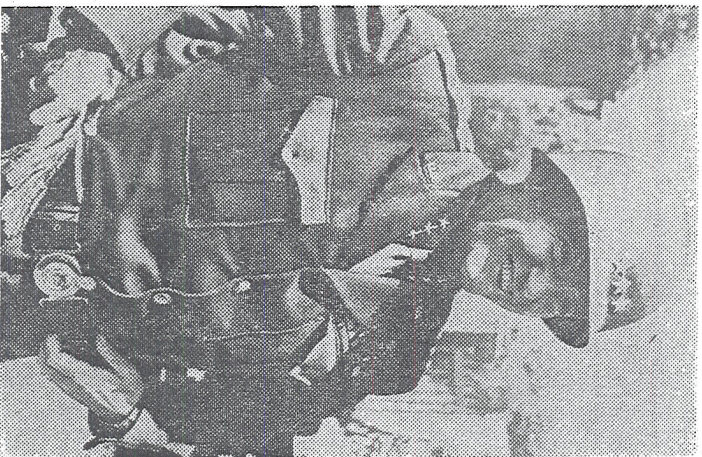
WASHINGTON—(CST) — President Nixon is lavishly praising the movie "Patton" to friends, advisers and visitors, stirring speculation that he is emulating the celebrated World War II general in his conduct of the war in southeast Asia.

"It comes up in every conversation," Secretary of State William Rogers reportedly told Darryl Zanuck, chairman of 20th Century-Fox studios.

Governmental hawks are delighted, seeing it as a sign that a resident of the White House is finally prepared to prosecute the war in sound military terms.

Doves Are Dismayed
The doves are dismayed, convinced that Gen. George Patton — "Old Blood and Guts" — as he was known to his troops — is the very opposite of the type of man who should be President.

Nixon's fascination with Patton apparently goes back to the "Checkers" speech of 1952 when, as the Vice Presidential candidate, he defended his acceptance of contributions toward a private political expense fund.
After an emotional tel-



GENERAL PATTON—IDOL OF PRESIDENT NIXON?
Fighting man image is said to fascinate the Chief Executive

evision presentation, which included comments about his dog Checkers, Republican Presidential nominee Dwight Eisenhower came to his defense, comparing his "courage" under fire to that of Patton.

Reprimanded for Slap
Eisenhower explained that Patton had committed an error — slapping

a battle-fatigued soldier in a hospital on suspicion of cowardice — and that he had reprimanded him for it.

But later, Eisenhower added, Patton justified his faith as commander of the 3rd Army in the Normandy invasion and the Battle of the Bulge.

Nixon reportedly alluded to the battle in his speech to a group of

business and financial leaders at a White House dinner shortly after he sent troops into Cambodia.

'Greatest Movement'
"Perhaps," the President is quoted by Life Magazine as saying, "it was the greatest movement of forces in the whole history of warfare in a short time — 1 million men about 100 miles

in three days."

Nixon reportedly went on to cite that part of the film "Patton" in which the general sent for the chaplain and ordered a prayer for good weather so that air power could come to his aid during the battle.

"We have every chaplain in Vietnam praying for early rain," the President is said to have declared. "You have to have the will and determination to go out and do what is right for America."

First Report

Nixon's apparent absorption with Patton was first reported recently by Hugh Sidey, Time-Life's Washington bureau chief, in his column, "The Presidency" in the current issue of Life.

Sidey also reported that a special 16-mm. film of the movie was carried aboard the President's plane when he flew to his home in San Clemente shortly after his talk to the businessmen.

Presidential assistant H. R. Haldeman, Sidey said, has advised White House staff members to see the movie to get a better understanding of Nixon.