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## Nixon, to Kick Around

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By Margaret Crimmins

The President's image-makers aren't going to like a new film, "Millhouse: A White Comedy."

Whether or not there's a new Nixon, the old one is still around, on hundreds and hundreds of feet of film shot during that long and laborious and tenacious march to the White House. Iconoclastic New York film maker Emile de Antonio—who is outraged by politicians—couldn't resist going back over all those years and all that reel life.

It's all there, the 1952 Checkers speech, which Daryl Zanuck called "The greatest performance I've ever seen"; the Alger Hiss affair; the Nixons' hardly welcome reception in Caracas, the "You-won't-have-Nixon-to-kick-around" speech when he lost the California gubernatorial campaign in 1962.

The 93-minute film, which premiered Thursday night to American Film Institute members, winds up with President Nixon's inaugural gala, "Auld Lang Syne" playing in the background, the President reminiscing about Guy Lombardo playing at a dance on VJ Day and saying that he hoped Guy Lombardo would be around for the end of the next war.

Asked after the film, during a lively question and answer period, why he used that ending, De Antonio

said, "I can't really explain it, but there's a kind of quintessential blindness about wars ending with Guy Lombardo."

De Antonio said he originally tried to get the Checkers sequence to run in movie theaters during the 1968 presidential campaign, but couldn't. Now he's trying to get a copyright on it—"It would be an interesting lawsuit."

The Checkers speech, which treats viewers to a clenched-fist and taut and earnest Nixon, compared with the wide-armed and grinning Nixon of today, De Antonio believes "belongs to the people."

During his campaign for the 1952 vice presidency, Nixon gave a 30-minute televised broadcast, in which he listed every family asset (\$4,000 in life insurance and some GI insurance "which I've never been able to convert") right down to a pup delivered at Baltimore's Union Station which Tricia named "Checkers."

The film, which De Antonio is currently trying to sell to a distributor, cost him about \$110,000 and about a year's work.

"No one in this audience

can be deluded into thinking this is an objective film," said the producer, who is in his 50s.

"Hopefully," he said, "it's a devastating political comedy."

The producer-director (also of "In the Year of the Pig" and "America Is Hard to See," about Eugene McCarthy's campaign) said he has given about 125,000 feet of unused film on Nixon's political career to the University of Wisconsin archives, along with some of the producers' artifacts. "I've

About the response at Thursday night's showing, he said, "Damned good." He laughed most of the way through, mostly with a pained expression on his face.

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