

\$2 Million Figure For Nixon Memoirs

New York

Roger W. Straus Jr., the New York publisher, said yesterday his company had been told by "a reliable intermediary" earlier this month that former President Nixon "would entertain an offer of \$2 million" for the right to publish his memoirs.

Nixon associates have made no comment this week about Mr. Nixon's literary plans, but a former assistant to him said he understood the former President was planning to do a great deal of writing.

And Scott Meredith, the New York literary agent, said a Nixon aide had telephoned him after Mr. Nixon's resignation to ask whether the Nixon memoirs could indeed bring \$2 million as Meredith has previously

estimated.

"I said without a doubt," Meredith reported. But Straus, the president of Farrar, Straus & Giroux, said, "I think \$2 million is more than the property is worth." He said his company had declined the offer, because "we don't have that kind of money."

Straus said the intermediary, whom he declined to name, had telephoned from Washington and said Mr. Nixon would entertain the offer of the money "spread over a ten-year period at \$200,000 a year."

Straus said he assumed the \$2 million was to be for a "package" deal, that is, one that would include paperback and other subsidiary publishing rights to Mr. Nixon's life story.

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