

26 Mar 75 ①

Nixon (television?) - "Nixon Is Said to Halt Friends' Efforts for TV Appearance by Him." Story is datelined San Clemente.

Negotiations for a "Nixon special" were "initiated several weeks ago" and were under way by 22 Feb, the only date given in story. Story says that according to a "former aide" Nixon "remained aloof" from the negotiations, but story also says that "the \$250,000 asking price, according to one informant, was first used by Mr. Nixon himself in casual conversation with a dinner guest ... in January."

Those involved are named as Paul Presley, Ziegler (who "was understood to have strongly opposed the ... project from the outset"), Korff, Frank Gannon, Johnny Grant ("of Los Angeles television station KTTV who is a Nixon friend of many years") and Col. Jack Brennan (Nixon's former military aide ("who is stationed at nearby Camp Pendelton")). Korff and Presley appear to be the ones taking the most active part in contacting the networks and independent producers.

"The networks and independent producers were said by two of Mr. Nixon's friends to have been told that if they were to amplify their earlier ["long-standing requests for interviews"] with a cash offer of around \$250,000, and submit a program format meeting Mr. Nixon's approval, he might be prevailed upon to appear on television." See story for ground rules which would have to be agreed to "before the matter could be put before Mr. Nixon."

"Another member of the 'exploratory' group said he understood that ABC ["whose news coverage of his Presidency Mr. Nixon always favored over that of CBS and NBC"] had objected to paying such a large sum for what it envisaged as essentially a news program, but also to the restrictions placed on the questioning, particularly about Watergate and related events. ["All questions about Watergate and the portion of the program devoted to them would have been subject to Mr. Nixon's prior approval."] This source said 'soundings' of [CBS and NBC] had produced reactions that were no more encouraging."

The reason for the temporary halt in negotiations is given in statement issued by Nixon's office: "Because of commitments Mr. Nixon already has in meeting deadlines for

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publication of the first volume of his memoirs, and also because of continuing restrictions placed on his activity by his doctors,\*it is not possible to schedule any interviews in the foreseeable future."

NYT 27 Mar 75, Everett R. Holles

\* "Dr. John Lungren [was] critical of the proposal as having medical ... risks." Charles Evers, of his visit with Nixon 22 Mar: "I thought he would be wobbly, but at one point I had to ask him to slow down." (On Evers, entry 22 Mar 75, Nixon is visited ... )

- See entry 28 Mar 75, same heading.

- Charles McCabe (on negotiations for a Nixon special; "in effect ... subsidizing one of the great liars of history.")

SFC 7 Apr 75