

Notes on People

Nixon Gets Checkup Tomorrow

President Nixon will undergo his annual two-hour medical checkup at the United States Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md., tomorrow. This year, the checkup has political as well as medical overtones.

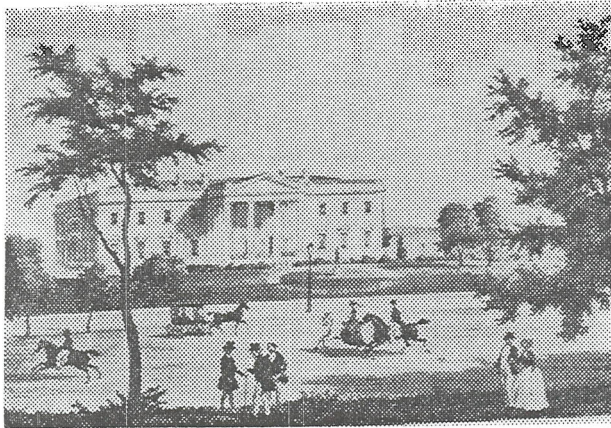
Many observers have speculated that Mr. Nixon might eventually plead poor health if he decides to resign, for he has said, in response to past calls for him to step down, that he would remain in office "as long as I am physically able to serve."

But Mr. Nixon's physician, Dr. Walter Tkach, has been quietly passing the word, in advance of Saturday's trip to the hospital, that the President is in fine shape and should pass his medical tests easily.

Lester Flatt, half of the old banjo team of Flatt and Scruggs, is peeved at Esquire magazine, to the tune of \$500,000, because it reported in its November issue that he was dead. He filed a damage suit in Nashville, citing an Esquire article that said, "Earl Scruggs and his partner, the late Lester Flatt, kept the banjo in the public eye with their tours, recordings and the themes for 'The Beverly Hillbillies' and 'Bonnie and Clyde.'" That, said Mr. Scruggs, was "absolutely false and defamatory."

Joyful as the rekindling of an old love may be for the two people intimately involved, it can spark problems for others. Take the case of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, who when last heard from were apparently reconciled and scratching plans for a divorce. Mayor Paul W. Lattimore of Auburn, N. Y., reports that he had been asked to find a buyer for the couple's 140-foot yacht, when the Burtons were on the outs, and "I had two real purchasers for the boat." Now, he said, "it appears all sales are off, but it's more important that two great lovers love again than for me to make a couple of yen."

In Los Angeles, a friend of the Burtons said he understood that "there's a hold on selling Elizabeth jewels until further notice," now that a reconciliation has been achieved.



United Press International

Detail of the illustration by August Kollner, a 19th-century German artist, on the Nixons' Christmas card.

With only a couple of weeks left before a new team takes over in City Hall, aides to Mayor Lindsay are stepping up their job-hunting activity. The latest to announce plans for the future are Deputy Mayor Edward K. Hamilton and Edward A. Morrison.

Effective next month, Mr. Hamilton will be president of Griffenhagen-Kroeger, Inc., a subsidiary of the Diebold Group, Inc., specializing in public and institutional management.

Mr. Hamilton said yesterday that he would return to private law practice, with the Madison Avenue firm of Sheldon, Tarnoff, Morrison & Murphy.

In Spain it is plain that John W. Dean 3d, the White House counsel dismissed in the Watergate affair, is considered a very important person. The Barcelona magazine Mundo polled the editors of leading newspapers and magazines for their views on magazine's "man of the year," and Mr. Dean beat out Secretary of State Kissinger for the honor by a vote of 60 to 57. Third place went

to Juan Peron, President of Argentina, and a soccer star, John Cruyff, ran fourth.

Just two days short of the Dec. 15 deadline the Postal Service recommended for all Americans to mail their Christmas cards, President and Mrs. Nixon got their 50,000 into the mail yesterday. The 1973 card sent out by the Nixons features a 19th-century view of the

White House framed in red and gold, by August Kollner.

The engraved message inside says, "With all the best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—the President and Mrs. Nixon." The cards are being sent to heads of state, United States and foreign diplomats, government dignitaries, and friends and close supporters of the Nixons.

ALBIN KREBS