



By Linda Wheeler—The Washington Post

President Nixon accepts the album "Thank You, Mr. President" from country singing star Tex Ritter, left.

Sing Along With the President

By Don Shirley

An album of President Nixon's speeches narrated by country singer Tex Ritter was presented to the President in a White House ceremony yesterday.

"Your words are echoed in our songs," said Ritter as he presented Mr. Nixon with one of only two copies of the album, called "Thank You, Mr. President," produced by the Country Music Association (CMA). The other copy of the album will

be kept at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville.

Excerpts from the President's speeches are interspersed with country music hits which express "the same ideas as your speeches," said Ritter.

Asked for examples, a CMA spokesman said Loretta Lynn's "Coal Miner's Daughter" was juxtaposed with a speech in which the President praised "people who work with their hands." "Battle of New Orleans,"

said the spokesman, was paired with "the President's speeches about war and peace."

In his presentation, Ritter cited two contributions President Nixon has made to the country music industry: the designation each year for the past four years of October as Country Music Month, and invitations to country musicians to perform at the White House.

Ritter later noted that country stars Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Glen Camp-

bell and Danny Davis have performed at the White House during Mr. Nixon's presidency.

Replying to Ritter, Mr. Nixon said "Country music has captured America" and "expanded all over the world." It is, the President said, "an international language."

Ritter reported after the ceremony that the President told him, "Country music is not only exciting but it's clean."