

Speculating on the Nixon Pardon

By Dorothy McCordle

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Rumors about former President Nixon's despondent state of mind were denied Monday night at the British embassy.

Gerald Warren, an assistant press secretary at the White House, insisted that Nixon is not so despondent that he has ever "threatened to take his life," as some guests at the party were saying privately.

Warren, who was second man in the White House press office during much of the Nixon administration, is

still there "during the transition."

"I thought President Ford did the right thing in issuing a pardon to former President Nixon," said Warren.

Speculation about President Nixon's mental state had been sparked by President Ford's own assessment of Nixon's health in his statement accompanying the pardon, and by press reports from San Clemente.

President Ford had said: "It is common knowledge that serious allegations and accusations hang like a

sword over our former President's head and threaten his health as he tries to reshape his life."

When someone at the embassy party interpreted this to mean that President Ford had issued the pardon so suddenly on Sunday because of possible Nixon "suicide threats," Warren denied this.

"Former President Nixon is in good health, if not in the best of spirits," Warren insisted. "I have talked to the people who are out there with him, and they say that he is not nearly so

despondent as we have been led to believe. He has not been so depressed that he has made any kind of threats."

Nobody wanted to be quoted on his opinion of the Ford decision to give Nixon a full pardon, but several people found it hard to accept the suddenness of the decision.

The reception at the British embassy was to promote the second annual Decorator's Show House, which is being opened from Oct. 5 to Oct. 27 to raise funds for the National Symphony Orches-

tra. British Ambassador and Lady Ramsbotham lent their embassy for the occasion.

This year's showhouse is located at 3911 Bradley Lane, Chevy Chase. It has been the residence of the Ambassador of Uruguay and Mrs. Hector Luisi. It is now up for sale for \$350,000, pending its becoming a showcase to raise funds for the orchestra. Seventeen decorators will furnish rooms of the house for public display at a fixed admission price. Last year's event raised \$50,000 for the orchestra.