

Foundation Paid Nixon Kin

By Robert Fairbanks
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SACRAMENTO, Calif.—The Richard Nixon Foundation, a tax-exempt corporation formed by the President's friends to build a presidential library, has paid at least \$21,000 to the President's brother, Edward, to learn where the First Family would like the library to be built, the Los Angeles Times has learned.

Leonard G. Firestone, president of the foundation, said Edward C. Nixon reviewed no more than six sites around the country and advised that a final selection (which has yet to be made) should be among three in Orange County, where the President was born and began his legal and political career.

Firestone, a director of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. and a resident of Beverly Hills, indicated his belief that the money was well spent. He said Edward Nixon visited proposed sites in the eastern part of the country, took pictures and studied reports.

"Obviously, he had some thought and idea of what the First Family might think of a given area . . . if people think that is too much (for Edward Nixon to be paid) let them try to hire a consultant today and see what they come up with," Firestone said.

Firestone said he hired the President's brother after being told that a member of the Nixon family might be helpful to

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the foundation in selecting a site, just as Mrs. Lyndon Johnson had been helpful to her husband in developing plans for his library.

When asked whether Mrs. Johnson was paid for her work, Firestone said he did not know.

Edward Nixon, 43, was most recently reported to be living in Edmonds, Wash., north of Seattle, and working as vice president of an industrial consulting firm. He could not be reached for comment.

The payment was disclosed in a document filed with the Registry of Charitable Trusts, an agency within the California Department of Justice. The state is involved because the foundation, like others of its kind, is in effect subsidized by taxpayers. (It pays no corporate income taxes, and donations it receives may be deducted from individual incomes.)

According to the document, the foundation paid Edward Nixon \$1,500 per month for 14 consecutive months beginning December, 1970 and ending January, 1972. He was described as a "consultant to the foundation respecting selection and development of proposed presidential library site."

Firestone said Edward Nixon might have received wages for a few additional months in 1972, but that he received no more than that.

The document also showed the foundation spending about \$35,000 with five other consultants and consulting firms. Most of that money (\$23,148) went to William L. Pereira Associates, a prominent Los Angeles architectural and planning firm.

Firestone said Pereira and the others handled the technical side of the consulting work, such as studying population trends, traffic patterns and the like. Edward Nixon, he said, handled the "emotional or esthetic" side.

Firestone also noted that two schools in Los Angeles—the University of Southern California and Claremont College—have recently proposed that their campuses become

the site for the presidential library. However, he said he did not believe that Edward Nixon would be hired again to review those proposals.

"We got sort of some of the family thinking and the things that we felt he could give us," Firestone explained.

The document disclosing the Edward Nixon payment ended an exchange of letters between the foundation and state officials that had started last June, a month after the foundation filed its annual state-required report for the 1972 calendar year.

In that report, the foundation showed expenses of \$72,230.08 for "construction in process." Inasmuch as there has been no construction in process since the foundation was formed in 1969, the state officials asked for more details about where the money had gone. On Dec. 17, 1973, after more letters back and forth, the foundation replied with the document listing the Edward Nixon payments, the other consultant fees and travel and miscellaneous expenses.

In addition to four regular officers, headed by Firestone, the foundation has a board of executive trustees, headed by chairman E. R. (Bob) Halde- man, who resigned as President Nixon's chief of staff last spring because of the Watergate scandal.

Other trustees are Patricia Reilly Bitt, a former assistant secretary in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; Herbert W. Kalm- bach, President Nixon's personal attorney; John D. Ehrlichman, the President's domestic adviser who resigned with Haldeman; Robert H. Finch, former White House adviser; Leonard Garment, a current White House adviser, and John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General.

The other regular officers are Elmer H. Bobst, former president of the Warner Lambert Corp., a drug company, vice president; Frank De- marco Jr., Kalmbach's law partner, secretary; and Jack Drown a Los Angeles publisher's distributor, treasurer.

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