

2-24-76
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Japanese Scandal 'Interesting' to Nixon

From News Dispatches

PEKING, Feb. 23 — Former President Richard M. Nixon chatted casually with reporters in Peking today about the Lockheed bribe scandal that one of the journalists called "the hottest scandal in Japan."

Reminiscing about his many trips to Japan, Nixon said: "So many of my friends there say, 'come back,' including some who used to be in the government. Former Premier [Nobusuke] Kishi, for example, is still around."

Told Kishi was president of the Japan-American Friendship Society, Nixon smiled and said: "I hope he doesn't have any Lockheed stocks. Our ambassador used to work for Lockheed, you know. But he was in labor relations . . . He couldn't have known anything about this." Former Secretary of Labor James Hodgson is U.S. Ambassador to Japan.

Continuing to muse about the scandal, Nixon said: "The interesting thing is, I imagine, so many of them are in it. They're all coming out of the woodwork." He said he had read some of the parliamentary testimony about the bribes, adding, "Everybody denied it."