

Miami Cubans Dance for Nixon

By TAD SZULC

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MIAMI, June 4 — In a carefree mood reminiscent of pre-Castro Cuba more than a decade ago, several hundred wealthy Cubans and other Spanish-speaking residents of Miami, ate, drank and danced into the small hours of the dawn today at a lavish party to raise funds for the re-election of their neighbor, Richard M. Nixon.

President Nixon, resting since Friday at the Florida White House compound on Key Biscayne, a few miles south of the Keystone Island dinner dance, sent his regrets for not being present to the National Hispanic Finance Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

But at least two ranking White House staff members were on hand, and the night under great striped tents in the garden of the residence of Oscar A. White, a Cuban-born Miami lawyer, resounded with the music of rumbas, sambas and fox trots and emotional speeches extolling Mr. Nixon.

To the applause of the crowd that had paid \$100 a couple to attend the Nixon benefit (and to hold drinking glasses wrapped in yellow paper napkins with the words "Re-Elect the President" printed on them), speakers, some of them now American citizens, promised that "we shall return" to Cuba.

Sees Migrant Workers

But if the rainy-night affair seemed somewhat unreal in the context of 1972 ("I feel just as if I were back at the country club in Havana," a beautifully coiffed Cuban woman remarked), one guest had a chance some hours later to see the other face of Spanish-speaking Florida.

Henry M. Ramirez, chairman of the President's Cabinet Committee on Opportunity People, who was billed as the evening's principal "honored guest," this morning toured Mexican-American and Puerto Rican migrant workers' camps south of here.

Mr. Ramirez, a California-born educator of Chicano parentage and once a migrant worker himself, expressed shock and dismay in an interview over the conditions he had found in the camps, which house some

Hundreds at Party to Raise Funds for Campaign

20,000 workers and their families in the Homestead area, 20 miles southwest of Key Biscayne.

"It's squalor, poverty, exploitation and despair," he said. "These are camps owned by big fruit and vegetable-picking companies which own the workers."

Mr. Ramirez said the migrant families paid the companies \$25 a week to rent waterless shacks without sewerage facilities, were forced to buy food and other necessities at company stores, and were often paid in scrip instead of money.

This is the annual three-month period when there is no work in the Florida fields, before the crops are ready for picking, and the migrants "just sit and wait," Mr. Ramirez reported.

Most of the 300,000 Cubans here, including some 80,000 who have acquired American citizenship, are reasonably well off and some are wealthy.

But, Mr. Ramirez said, the migrants have no unions and receive no outside help. Some of the federal money in Florida, he said, could be used to train the migrants for better-paying jobs.

Mr. Ramirez as well as the leaders of the Hispanic Committee for Mr. Nixon's re-election acknowledged that the Republican effort here among Spanish-speaking residents was not really for their votes in November but chiefly for campaign funds.

"This is Nixon country anyway," one of the committee leaders remarked. "We are registering the new citizens as Republicans at a four-to-one ratio. What we can get for the President here is money."

The committee's nationwide goal is to raise \$1-million from Spanish-Americans before the elections. The Miami group believes it has raised already close to \$100,000.

The affluent Spanish-speaking community in Florida supports Mr. Nixon because of its basically conservative business philosophy and with the hope that a Republican Administration will maintain its hostility toward the regime of Fidel Castro in Cuba.

Coincidentally, Mr. Nixon's closest personal friend here is C. G. Rebozo, a Miami banker of Cuban origin. They are neighbors in Key Biscayne.

For the President, today, as yesterday, was a family day of rest after last week's visit to the Soviet Union. The Nixons attended morning services at the Key Biscayne Presbyterian Church in their only public appearance of the day.

While the Nixons were at church, 23 Vietnam war opponents picketed the Key Biscayne compound. They handed a Secret Service agent a petition, signed "with love," urging the President to halt the bombings in Southeast Asia.

Later, the President conferred with Henry A. Kissinger, his foreign policy adviser, who came here to discuss his forthcoming trip to Japan.

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Stark Contrast of Cubans in Florida

Miami

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Ramirez said the migrant families pay the companies \$25 a week to rent waterless shacks without sewage facilities or toilets, are forced to buy food-stuffs and other necessities at company stores, and are often paid in scrip.

He said his efforts here would make it possible to channel some of the millions of dollars earmarked annually for Cuban refugees by the federal government to the Spanish-speaking migrants.

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