Millionaire Friend

SFChronicle

MAY 2 6 1973

The Buyer of Nixon's Land

Washington

Robert H. Abplanalp, who was revealed yesterday as the man who bought most of the land at the President's retreat in San Clemente, is Mr. Nixon's "other" millionaire friend.

He's shyer and not as well known as Charles (Bebe) Rebozo, but he's no less wealthy and is certainly every bit as intriguing.

The son of an immigrant Swiss machinist, Abplanalp has amassed a personal fortune reportedly as high as \$100 million since he invented the aerosol valve 24 years ago.

BUSINESS

He is now the sole owner of the Precision Valve Co. of Yonkers, N.Y., which sells about 60 per cent of all the aerosol valves in the world.

Although Abplanalp, a burly six - footer, contributed heavily to Mr. Nixon's unsuccessful presidential campaign in 1960, the two men did not become acquainted until 1963, after Mr. Nixon had moved to New York to practice law.

In the years before Mr. Nixon's second try for the presidency in 1968, the two men developed a close personal relationship, lunching together frequently as well as a professional one. Abplanalp retained the President's old law firm to handle the overseas affairs of his corporation.

When Abplanalp bought his two Bahamaian islands, Grand Cay and Walker's Cay, Mr. Nixon became a frequent visitor there, a practice he has continued since becoming president. "It's one place where the President can relax completely," a former White house aide has said. POLITICS

Abplanalp, a strong con-

servative, gave by his own account c'several thousand dollars'' to New York Senator James Buckley's 1970 senatorial campaign, and is also a friend of J. Daniel Mahoney, the New York state Conservative Party chairman.

He has long been an ardent admirer of Mr. Nixon, whom he once called "a real intellectual," but their friendship has centered more on a mutual appreciation of sports and deep-sea fishing than on politics.

At least once, however, the 51 - year - old Abplanalp was moved to declare publicly his support for the President's policies when he joined in 1970 the "Tell It to Hanoi Committee," a short lived organization formed by a number of Mr. Nixon's closest associates as a response to the anti - war movement.

N.Y. Times Service