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HANDS ACROSS A CAR: President Nixon meeting construction workers after leaving Chicago Sun-Times office yesterday afternoon. Mr. Nixon spoke with editors of the four major daily newspapers there in off-the-record sessions.

NIXON, IN CHICAGO, AIDS SENATE DRIVE

Smith, G. O. P. Incumbent, Is Viewed as Underdog

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CHICAGO, Sept. 17 — Still buoyed by his reception yesterday at Kansas State University, President Nixon bounced around Chicago today for a series of appearances designed in part to help the political fortunes of Senator Ralph T. Smith.

The Republican Illinois Senator is regarded as an underdog in his race with Adlai E. Stevenson 3d, the Democratic nominee.

Awake much of the night because of the tense situation in Jordan, Mr. Nixon began his day with a brief meeting in his suite at the Sheraton-Blackstone Hotel with the editors of three Polish-language newspapers and the heads of four Polish-American fraternal organizations. This city's inhabitants include 1.2 million Polish Americans.

At noon, Mr. and Mrs. Nixon played host to some 140 persons of diverse ethnic origins

who were about to be sworn in as United States citizens. Mr. Nixon gave each a small American flag, similar to the one he wears in his own lapel, and spoke on the privileges and duties of citizenship.

Hails Immigrant Feats

The President spoke of his own roots and the origins of the Milhous and Nixon families — "We are Heinz, 57 varieties," he said. He lauded the contribution of immigrants to "the greatness that we know today in this country" and ticked off the names of famous immigrants to prove his point, ranging from Knute Rockne (Norwegian) to Bob Hope (British) to Dr. Henry A. Kissinger (German) his own national security adviser.

He spoke, too, of the "opportunities" of citizenship and the guarantees and "protections" provided United States citizens by their Government. In this context he condemned the Palestinian guerrillas who have released some Americans but held others who are of Jewish origin.

"We do not accept the proposition," he said in part, "that some American citizens shall be treated one way and

some shall be treated another way, because they happen to have been born in another country."

Senator Smith stood in the receiving line with the Nixons and candidly conceded the benefits of proximity to the President. In the last seven days, Republican strategists in Washington have sent not only Mr. Nixon but also Vice President Agnew and 12 of Mr.

Smith's Senate colleagues into the state.

Mr. Nixon also met this morning for an off-the-record session with the editors of the Chicago Sun-Times and The Chicago Daily News, and this afternoon with editors of The Chicago Tribune and Chicago Today.

Emerging from the Sun-Times offices, Mr. Nixon sighted some construction workers

across the street. One yelled, "Mr. President, come across the street and meet some hard hats," and he did.

One worker celebrated the President's arrival with a blast from a battered bugle. Mr. Nixon traded small talk, asking one black worker, "Do you have a good job?" When the man nodded affirmatively, the President asked, "Plenty of work here for you fellows?" The answer was obviously yes.