

Nixon's 'Welfare' Cousins Step Into a Public Furor

By George Murphy

"Oh, my God," Anna Milhous told The Chronicle yesterday, "I didn't realize what I was doing."

What Mrs. Milhous, the wife of President Nixon's cousin, referred to was her disclosure on Thursday that she and her husband, who live in what at best could be called a modest home in

Grass Valley, are on welfare. She said yesterday she didn't realize what a furor the story would cause.

OUTRAGE

The reason for the disclosure, she said, was to express her outrage at Governor Ronald Reagan's veto of \$1.8 million in funds for the California Rural Legal Assistance Program.

The Nixon Administration

did not override Reagan's veto but provided funds to keep the CLRA alive, on a temporary basis, for six months.

Mrs. Milhous, an outspoken lady, said "I'm from Missouri."

"The 'show me' state?" The Chronicle asked.

"You're darned right!" she

VETO

Of Reagan's veto, she said:

"I think what he did was atrocious. I think he did it for spite. I think Reagan is against poor people."

The Milhouses disclosed on Thursday that they are on welfare, touching off a cause celebre reaching to the White House and bringing a phalanx of media people to their five-room wooden home six miles out of Grass Valley, just off the Colfax road.

Milhous, 5, who formerly operated a chainsaw dealership, has a heart condition, and has been able to work only sporadically as a handyman.

Mrs. Milhous, 47, suffers from crippling arthritis.

RELATIONSHIP

Milhous said he hasn't asked Mr. Nixon for help.

The President's mother, Hannah Milhous Nixon and Milhous' father were sister and brother.

"He's got too many problems," Milhous said.

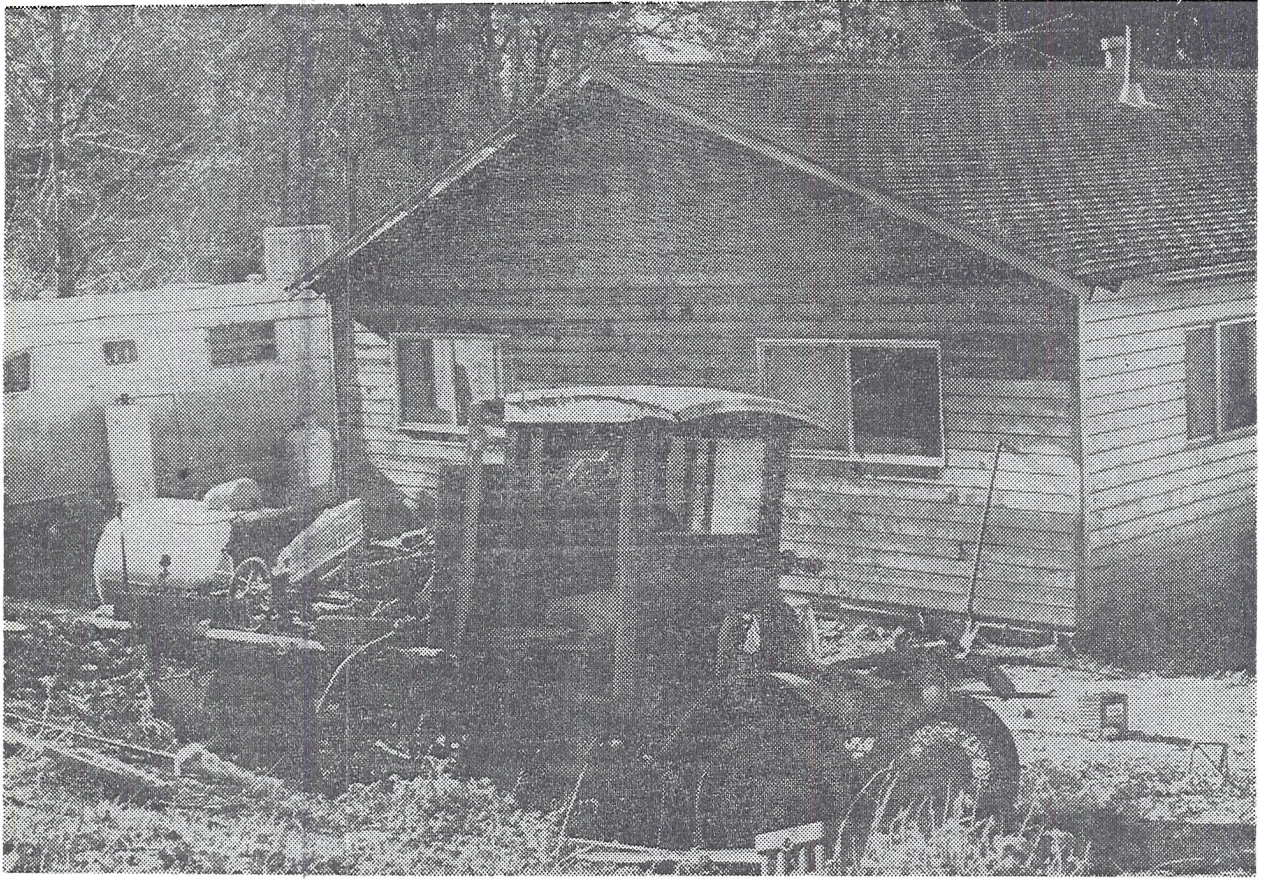
"Our visiting power is nil, because we are financially unable to go back and see him," the President's cousin said. "But I know I would be welcomed with opened arms."

Mrs. Milhous interposed, "I don't know if he would



AP Wirephotos

Nixon's first cousin Philip Milhous and wife Anna



UPI Telephoto

The Milhous' home in Grass Valley

welcome us after today, though. I don't know what his reaction might be."

In Key Biscayne, Fla., White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler said, "this is a personal matter for the Milhous family and I think it would be presumptuous of me to carry it further."

Ziegler said the Milhouses, who have been on welfare for some time, "are a very self-reliant family."

Mrs. Milhous has rowked as semi official contact for persons in the area seeking

legal aid from CRLA.

Asked if she had received any offers of financial aid, Mrs. Milhous bristled: "I couldn't stand it if they did. Some of our close relatives know things are bad but we keep our problems to ourselves."

REASONING

The only reason she brought the story to light, she said, was to point out the need of the indigent for legal services.

"I'm not asking anything for myself. But I'm asking

that the poor people have help in legal matters because it seems sad to me that justice is according to how much you have in your pocket."

She added, "My father was a Baptist minister back in Missouri and the way poor people are treated just goes against my belief."

EFFECT

Asked what effect she thinks her statements about Reagan ("a menace to society . . . he's disrupted all the state aid programs") might

have, Mrs. Milhous, who is entitled to Medi-Cal treatment, chortled:

"I may not have a doctor to treat me next week.

"The phone has been ringing all day and the TV people have been taking pictures of the house and I wish they wouldn't because there's all that red dirt splattered on the side," she added.

Milhous, speaking of Mr. Nixon's upholding Reagan's veto, said: "I feel the President went along with Reagan and tried to appease him."