

Ex-Chief of POW Kin Backs Nixon

[NYTimes Service]

Washington - President Nixon was endorsed yesterday by the outgoing head of the largest single organization of prisoner-of-war families, a group that has had significant assistance in the past from the Republican party.

A spokeswoman for the group, the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, emphasized that Carole Hansen, the outgoing league board chairman, was speaking "as an individual."

Her official duties ceased as of Tuesday [17 Oct], when her term expired, the spokeswoman said.

Mrs. Hansen and two other league members held a news conference to announce their endorsement of Mr. Nixon.

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The league would jeopardize its present tax-exempt status if it were to take a partisan stand. But in 1971, it was given advice and counsel - and the use of Republican National Committee mailing lists - in its direct-mail fund-raising campaign by the national committee.

According to a letter to board members from Joan M. Vinson, the league's national coordinator, the lists were made available secretly ... by Robert Odell, then executive director of the Republican National Finance Committee and now holding the same title with the Finance Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

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