

Regal Trappings for Nixon

WASHINGTON — "It's so quiet here. It's so wild down at Fort McNair," the comfortably elegant volunteer for the re-election of President Nixon said.

"We're in an army barracks."

She was one of some 3000 aspirants for association with Richard M. Nixon in his second term who are abandoning an upper bracket office building across from the White House for a temporary building beside the Anacostia River.

The Pennsylvania Avenue suite housed the now defunct Committee for Re-Election of the President.

Down by the river, former campaign workers are crowding each other for status jobs with Nixon's inaugural committee.

Because nobody at the so far unannounced inaugural office is yet sure who anybody else is, young men tend to talk in hushed tones about policy and, out front,

smartly dressed white, brown and black women decorate the otherwise drab barracks with splashes of color.

But the real business of the inauguration — and it may be a multi - million dollar business — is done down a long, colorless corridor.

J. Willard Marriott, chairman-designate, presides there.

Today, the main switchboard operator cannot tell you where his office is.

But Marriott, 72 year old restaurant and motel tycoon who began his business career by selling long john underwear to loggers in Utah, is in firm control.

Assisting him are Jeb Stuart Magruder, a deputy director of the re-election committee, and Powell Moore, public information officer for former Attorney

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General John Mitchell, who later served at the re-election office.

Both Magruder and Mitchell were among Nixon loyalists who controlled a secret \$700,000 fund collected before a new law required presidential candidates to identify their supporters, Nixon's campaign chairman Clark MacGregor has divulged.

Marriott, Magruder and Moore have inherited what's left of Nixon campaign contributions to pay for the regal trappings of the President's second inaugural Jan. 20.

The big show is expected to cost at least \$2 million. Less than \$500,000 will be covered by the taxpayers. The rest comes from Nixon's contributors who are due for royal treatment during the days before and after the President takes his oath of office.