

Nixon's Aide Says He's Fit

Sacramento

President Nixon is neither "sick" nor "nervous," presidential counselor Anne Armstrong said here yesterday. "I can assure you this man is in command of himself."

The question of Mr. Nixon's health was brought up by Mrs. Armstrong herself during a press conference. She was in Sacramento to turn over three parcels of surplus federal land to local communities for use as parks.

She opened the news conference with the comment that she had just left the President at the Western

White House in San Clemente and "he is fit."

Asked later why she felt it necessary to report "he is fit," she replied: "There have been a lot of stories to the contrary — that he is haggard, nervous, irritable and his health has not been the best."

Mrs. Armstrong praised Mr. Nixon's performance Wednesday at his first nationally televised news conference in 14 months, pointing out that he made a humorous, side remark about the shoving incident in New Orleans Monday with press secretary Ronald Ziegler.

"He handled it in a way I don't think a sick or nervous



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ANNE ARMSTRONG
Presidential counselor

man could have handled it," said the former Republican national committee co-chairwoman. *United Press*