

## The South Gives Nixon a Boost

### Washington

Vowing "I'll be here for three more years," President Nixon accepted gestures of Southern support yesterday in his administration's current troubles.

In an Oval Office ceremony, petitions bearing 46,000 signatures from Shreveport and Bossier City, La., were presented to the President. He responded, "The fact that these petitions come from the Democratic South makes it the best Christmas present I could have."

Representative Joe Waggoner (Dem-La.) headed the delegation and told Mr. Nixon the petitions represented "a bipartisan outpouring of sentiment for you and your office."

"You can tell every one of these 46,000 that I'll be here for three more years," Nixon said, gesturing at the petitions stacked on his desk.

A few moments earlier, the President had met with country and western entertainer Tex Ritter, who gave him a special album titled, "Thank you, Mr. President."

The album is composed of excerpts from Mr. Nixon's speeches, with Ritter narrating.

White House officials said only two copies of the recording had been made—one for presentation to Mr. Nixon and the other to be preserved in the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville,

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