

Full Time Assistant on the Job

Screening Nixon's Fans

By Don Irwin
Los Angeles Times

Washington

A deputy special assistant to President Nixon works nearly full time these days reviewing messages of support for the chief executive and arranging for selected admirers to visit the President.

He is Bruce Herschensohn, 41, a former writer-producer in Hollywood who said last week that he has, since late October, worked up to 18 hours a day answering telephone calls from individuals in all parts of the country who want to express their belief in the beleaguered President.

Herschensohn said he relays the messages to the President, who is "very pleased" by them.

Mr. Nixon wants to talk with as many as possible of these supporters, Herschensohn said, and they have appeared in a steady series on recent presidential appointment lists.

Thursday's visitor was Anna Clinkscapes, an amiable housewife from Baltimore's inner city who organ-



BRUCE HERSCHENSOHN
Ex-Hollywood writer

ized a door-to-door canvass for signatures on "Support-the-President" petitions and brought them with her to the Oval Office.

Mr. Nixon called the petitions "a very nice Christmas present" as he held his visitors hand and asked about a place in Baltimore where he had bought nickel beer and nickel crabcakes when he worked in Washington early in World War II. Mrs. Clinkscapes replied that she

couldn't remember the place, adding that she doesn't drink or smoke. But she confirmed for the President that Baltimore housewives still scrub their white marble front steps, and said she is one that does.

Mrs. Clinkscapes left the Oval Office with Cufflinks and a tie clip for her menfolk and a paperweight and an ash tray, all marked with the presidential seal.

"He thanked me very much for the support and for the signatures and the effort and the sincerity," Mrs. Clinkscapes said. "I believe in the President. He's the greatest — a good President and Congress shouldn't impeach him."

Herschensohn escorted Mrs. Clinkscapes to the White House press room and promptly came under questioning about a series of supporters who have recently called on the President. They have included delegations from Louisiana, Texas and Florida, as well as Rabbi Baruch Korff from Rehoboth, Mass., who organized a citizens committee that has raised money

for newspaper advertisements urging "fairness to the President."

Neither these advertisements nor various "Support-the-President" rallies around the country have been instigated or directly supported by the White House, Herschensohn said. However, he said, all phone calls and letters from the President's backers are funneled to him and that he thanks each individual and sends the President a weekly report.

"They often ask for advice on what they should do or what they should put in their ads," Herschensohn said. "I tell them we can't help them with that; we can't become a clearing house at government expense for this kind of thing."

Herschensohn has made at least one public speech on Mr. Nixon's behalf. Appearing November 30 before the Public Affairs Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, he blamed the news media's "lynch-mob pressure" for the President's credibility problems and criticized the "tremen-



UPI Telephoto

PRESIDENT NIXON AND ANNA CLINKSCALES
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dously partisan" staff of special prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

Despite Herschensohn's appearance and another speech of support in Los Angeles by Commerce Secretary Frederick B. Dent, White House officials said

there was no organized Administration campaign to help the President through the Watergate crisis.

Said deputy communications director Ken B. Clawson:

"There are just a normal number of Administration

speakers out making speeches they are invited to give. They talk on a lot of different subjects. If we had another surrogate operation like the one during the battle of the budget in 1972, there would be 40 or 50 speakers out every day, and you'd know about it.