

# Nixon's Brother Paid by Tax-Free Library Group

Sacramento

The Richard Nixon Foundation, a tax-exempt corporation formed by the President's friends to build a presidential library, has paid at least \$21,000 to the President's brother, Edward, to learn where the

first family would like the library to be built, the Los Angeles Times has learned.

Leonard K. Firestone, president of the foundation, said Edward C. Nixon reviewed no more than six sites around the country and advised that a final selection (which has yet to be made) should be among three in Orange county.

Firestone, a director of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., indicated his belief that the money was well spent. He said Edward Nixon visited proposed sites in the eastern part of the country, took pictures and studied reports.

Firestone said he hired Edward Nixon after being told that a member of the Nixon family might be helpful to the foundation in selecting a site, just as Lady Bird Johnson had been helpful to her husband in developing plans for his library.

When asked whether Mrs. Johnson was paid for her work, Firestone said he did not know.

Edward Nixon, 43, most recently reported to be living in Edmonds, Wash., north of Seattle, could not be reached for comment.

According to a foundation document filed with the Registry of Charitable Trusts, Edward Nixon was paid \$1500 per month for 14 consecutive months beginning December, 1970 and ending January, 1972. He was described as a "consultant to the foundation respecting selection and development of proposed presidential library site."

When the foundation filed its annual report for the 1972 calendar year, it had showed expenses of \$72,230.08 for "construction in process." Inasmuch as there has been no construction in process since the foundation was formed in 1969, state officials asked for more details about where the money had gone, leading to the document listing the Edward Nixon payments.

*Los Angeles Times*