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Question of Nixon Aiding A Candidate

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Michigan's top Republican rejected as "inaccurate" reports yesterday that the state party was resisting a proposed campaign visit by President Nixon on behalf of James Sparling, a candidate in an April 16 special congressional election.

"The newspaper stories are inaccurate," state GOP Chairman William McLaughlin said. "We are not being pressured by the White House and we are not resisting a visit by the President."

The Detroit Free Press and the Washington Star-News said yesterday that the Nixon offer was made to McLaughlin in Chicago by presidential counselor Dean Burch and by Republican National Chairman George Bush.

McLaughlin said on his return from Chicago, "The President is always welcome. If the candidate wants the President to come, we will fully support him. The final decision is up to the candidate."

Sparling scheduled a news conference today to announce whether he would invite the President to campaign on his behalf in Michigan's Eighth Congressional District.

United Press