

How Nixon Aides Wooded Hollywood



— Jack Anderson

PRESIDENT NIXON apparently arranged special tax breaks for the movie industry, which his campaign aides used to squeeze political support from Hollywood stars in 1972.

This is strongly suggested in confidential campaign memos, which we have just uncovered.

The memo also speaks of using actress Ali MacGraw to lure Henry Kissinger to Hollywood, where he might be persuaded to whisper pro-Nixon sentiments into the ears of film celebrities.

"We should ask Henry," suggested one memo, "to say something like, 'It would make me very happy if you could see your way clear to help re-elect President Nixon. I have great faith in Richard Nixon and I know you do, too.'"

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AS IT HAPPENED: Kissinger flew off to Peking instead of Hollywood and Pat Nixon was rushed in at the last minute to woo the film folks. But the tax benefits, apparently, had the best effect.

The scenario that the Nixon forces wrote for the political conquest of Hollywood is revealed in confidential memos that were shuffled between ex-Attorney General John Mitchell, ex-White House staff chief H. R. Haldeman and campaign aides Jeb MaGruder, Herbert Porter and Fred LaRue.

The memos begin on Oct. 18, 1971, with a complaint from Porter to Mitchell that

the campaign was "short of lists of celebrities." Porter suggested seeking celebrities from the movie industry which, he confided, was deeply in Nixon's debt.

He explained that the President had met in San Clemente with the industry's top brass on April 5, 1971. They had "pleaded ... for some sort of tax relief," related Porter. The President obligingly had promised "he would take a look at the possibilities ..."

"Shortly thereafter," triumphantly reported Porter, "the IRS issued a statement dramatically changing the amortization schedules allowed for film production. In addition, there have been other changes regarding tax deferrals.

"And finally, the administration's Investment Credit Bill will be of significant benefit to the film production industry." Porter added that Export-Import Bank loans were also going to the movie industry.

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SOME BENEFITS for movieland, according to Porter's memos, were obtained personally by the President. Our own sources say that Nixon's Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans also pushed through a tax concession for Hollywood. Stans was the chief campaign fund-raiser for Nixon in 1972.

The party at which Pat Nixon substituted for Kissinger was held at Taft Schreiber's luxurious Beverly Hills home. But it was, Schreiber insisted, "a fun party ... no politics."