

# *It IS Nixon calling--no hoax*

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — When a skeptical William Staples finally took a phone call from Richard Nixon, he told his wife, "It either has to be the President or Rich Little."

It was no impressionist, such as Little, on the line when President Nixon called the Staples in suburban Havertown on Sunday night.

While walking along the beach on Grand Cay Island in the Bahamas, Nixon had found a green whisky bottle with a note inside from the Staples grandson, Airman Apprentice Larry Metivier.

The note had asked the finder to telephone his grandparents to say hello. Metivier said he tossed it overboard from the USS Guam last March while sailing from Norfolk, Va., to Jacksonville, Fla.

But problems arose because the Staples' phone number is unlisted. It took the pleading of the Florida White House operator to get Staples to allow the number

to be given out.

Staples said he thought the call was a hoax until Nixon's friend, C. G. "Bebe" Rebozo, got on the line. Rebozo and another Nixon friend, Robert Abplanalp, had accompanied the President on his walk.

"I could think of no good reason why he would want to talk to me," Staples said. "There was still the possibility that it was a crank, but when the President came on the line, I recognized the voice."

Staples said Nixon told him he was "very proud of those who serve in the Navy" and that his 18 year old grandson was not guilty of littering the waterways. Metivier is stationed in Jacksonville with a Navy helicopter squadron.

Staples and his wife called Metivier after their conversation with Nixon. "He couldn't believe it," Staples said yesterday. "He only started believing it when the President called him this morning."



**LARRY METIVIER SHOWS HOW HE DID IT**  
 Navy man stuck a letter in a bottle—Nixon got it  
 —AP Photo