

SF Chronicle
**Ballad in
Defense
Of Nixon**

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Dallas

Bill Rogers, a country and western songwriter who twanged the praise of Lieutenant William Calley and Audie Murphy and condemned Jane Fonda, has taken patriotic pen in hand to defend President Nixon.

Rogers, 48, who calls himself "An old east Texas cotton picker," taped "The Ballad of Richard Nixon" and sent it yesterday to Nashville, hoping to get it recorded.

"Don't jump to conclusions now and condemn our President," the song starts out. Rogers wrote it in one day.

"The way I wrote it, I was just standing up for the rights of the President and due process of law," he said. "He's innocent until proven guilty. When they start trying to condemn a man without due process and bringing his family into it, that just gets my dander up."

Rogers said he voted Democratic in 1972 but that doesn't have anything to do with his new song. He's sending Mr. Nixon a copy and "A lead sheet in a pret-



UPI Telephoto

BILL ROGERS

He wrote it in one day

ty frame."

Rogers wrote "Hanoi Jane" about a year ago and "No Justice Here Today," a mournful tune about the conviction of Lieutenant Calley, followed. Before that, his biggest "hit" was "Audie Murphy, America's Greatest Hero."

United Press