

Work Quietly Goes on in Calif.

By Bradley Graham
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SAN CLEMENTE, Aug. 11— A small staff of aides to former President Nixon worked through the weekend arranging the transfer from Washington to the West Coast of his personal belongings, papers and tape recordings.

The tasks of sorting out the voluminous records of the former President's 5½-year term, establishing a permanent staff and arranging for office space have occupied assistants here and in Washington since Mr. Nixon's resignation Thursday.

The former President has been busy reading and working on the arrangements, an aide said, although Mr. Nixon has reportedly left his secluded compound twice to drive along the Southern California coast.

"I'd say his spirits are good. He's not downcast," said a staff assistant.

About the resignation, the assistant said: "It's a decision he is very comfortable with . . . He's satisfied it was in the national interest, the right step he should have taken."

The aide refused to discuss the disposition of the still substantial file of taped presidential conversations not subpoenaed by investigators—a matter under discussion with officials in Washington.

The staff at San Clemente is reportedly coordinating government business matters and the transfer of Mr. Nixon's records with President Ford's aides.

But, an aide said, there has been no direct communication between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Ford since the former President left Washington Friday.

With Mr. Nixon this weekend are two old friends, industrialist Robert Abplanalp and banker C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo.

The former President said through an aide that he regards his free hours now as "a private time," and so no personal details about the way he is spending his days are being made public.

Also staying with Mr. Nixon is his personal physician, Dr. Walter Tkach. Aides say the doctor has come along only in his capacity as a personal friend and not because Mr. Nixon is in need of medical attention.

Rebozo and Abplanalp have an interest in the San Clemente estate as the owners of the company — the B&C Investment Co. — which in 1970 bought 23 of the estate's 28.9 acres from Mr. Nixon for \$1,249,000.

"To Be Great Is To Be Misunderstood — Hang In There, Mr. President."

Aides said they do not know how long Mr. Nixon intends to stay at San Clemente. One knowledgeable source discounted a report that the former President is planning an early visit to Mexico.

Since Mr. Nixon announced he would resign as the 37th President, an aide said he has received "many thousands" of telegrams and an avalanche of mail, posing the immediate problem of answering the correspondence.

More than 65,000 telephone calls have been logged in Washington and San Clemente since Thursday, the aide added. Several hundred bouquets of flowers greeted the Nixon family on arrival in San Clemente Friday, and arrangements are being made to send the flowers to hospitals.

Handling transitional matters for the former President are Ronald L. Ziegler, former presidential press secretary who now has the title of staff assistant; Stephen Bull, former White House appointments secretary; Marine Col. Jack Brennan, Mr. Nixon's military aide, and two secretaries.

Mr. Nixon's personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, remained in Washington with Julie Eisenhower to sort out the former President's papers.

Under the Transition Act, Mr. Nixon is entitled to a support staff to handle problems of his personal changeover for the next six months. He also is entitled to communications arrangements and security protection.

Some of the once-extensive communications facilities at the San Clemente house already has been dismantled, although security around the Nixon compound remains tight.

After six months, Mr. Nixon's allowance will be cut substantially, but another law, called the Former President's Act, will entitle him to some funds for staff and office arrangements. That allowance will amount to about \$96,000 a year, besides the \$60,000 annual pension Mr. Nixon will receive.

Aides are studying the feasibility of using the existing office space at the San Clemente retreat as a permanent installation. The former President compound includes three office buildings built in 1969 when Mr. Nixon bought the estate.

One building has housed Mr. Nixon's office and the offices of his top staff assistants. Another contains a conference room, guest offices and mess facilities, and a third has housed support personnel such as the Secret Service.

No decision has been reached, aides said, on establishment of a library to house the former President's records, but early discussions on the matter are expected.

Mr. Nixon still owes them \$226,440, plus \$17,000 interest in mortgage payments due next January.

Sightseers continued today to drive by the gates that bar the public from the Nixon estate. Up the road, which is named Avenue del Presidente, stood the sign outside the San Clemente Inn still bearing the greeting: "Welcome Home, Mr. President."

Last week the sign read: