

Book Agent Says Nixon Picked Him

By Stanley Johnson

NEW YORK, Sept. 9 (AP) —Literary agent Irving Lazar says former President Nixon has authorized him to negotiate the sale of his memoirs for a figure probably exceeding \$2 million in advance.

"He wants to be a part of things, to make a contribution in the quest for peace, to make his voice heard loud and clear," Lazar said in a telephone interview Sunday. "I think it will be heard loud and clear."

He said he clinched the deal during a three-hour meeting with Mr. Nixon at San Clemente Aug. 31.

"He was in great mental and emotional condition," Lazar said. "He doesn't look beaten. He was in great form."

Lazar was enthusiastic about the pardon granted Mr. Nixon by President Ford and especially because it gave the former chief executive all his civil rights.

"I don't think President Nixon is through," Lazar said. "He's eligible to run

for office and appear to vast audiences. I think he will appear to vast audiences.

"I think he's going to tell one of the great stories of all time. After all, he's the only man in the world who really knows what happened about Watergate.

"His book will be candid, honest and honorable about the events of Watergate. It will be a true, historical portrayal, especially of the great things he has done in the quest for peace."

Lazar said the former president would write at San Clemente, "but when he will go to work, I don't know." He said the starting date for writing would depend on such things as whether Mr. Nixon will have to appear as a witness at a Watergate trial Sept. 30.

Lazar, who also represents such writers as Theodore White of the "Making of the President" series, Vladimir Nabokov, Françoise Sagan and historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., said Mr. Nixon's income from the



IRVING LAZAR
... sees "candid" book

book would depend on sales.

He said a sale in paperback of 10 million copies "would not be extraordinary. If it's a big hit, that's not a lot of copies. The public's interest in nonfiction is much greater than in fiction. They want to know what's going on."

Lazar also predicted a hard-cover sale of at least 500,000 copies.

Such sales, he said, should certainly bring Mr. Nixon over \$2 million and "it's customary for the first payment to be made before the author starts writing and the rest in installments."