

AN AGENT OFFERS NIXON'S MEMOIRS

**\$750,000 Reported Sought
for Hard-Cover Rights**

By ERIC PACE

Irving Paul Lazar, the California agent, has been asking \$750,000 for United States hardcover publication rights and allied rights to former President Richard Nixon's unwritten memoirs, executives of two hardcover publishing houses reported yesterday.

Mr. Lazar could not be reached for comment on the report by the executives, who declined to be identified. But William Sarnoff, chairman of Warner Paperback Library, said that his company had retained Mr. Lazar to sell rights to the memoirs other than United States mass market paperback rights.

Last week Warner Paperback reported that it had acquired all publication rights to the memoirs through Mr. Lazar, and the company is expected to publish Mr. Nixon's writing in paperback for minimum this country.

Mr. Sarnoff reaffirmed yesterday that Warner Paperback had "a contract with the President to publish his memoirs," with Mr. Nixon's signature on it.

However Scott Meredith, another literary agent said earlier "It's my understanding that there is no contract between Warner Paperback and Nixon but merely a letter of intent which states in effect that Warner Paperback will take the book if it turns out to be a certain kind of book."

'Excited About Project'

Mr. Sarnoff said "We're not commenting on the financial arrangements of the deal at all," but he observed "We are very excited about the project."

As to Mr. Nixon's writing plans Mr. Sarnoff who was reached at his office here said "We would hope that he'll start as promptly as his health and schedule allow."

Mr. Lazar was understood to be in New York also and the hardcover publishing executives said that Mr. Lazar had been telling publishers here that Mr. Nixon would write two volumes: one dealing with his early life foreign policy successes and impressions of other world leaders which would supposedly be completed within 18 months and one dealing with the Watergate furor which would not be ready for three years.

One publisher reported that Mr. Lazar had been saying that a model for Mr. Nixon in his memoir-writing would be Merle Miller's volume of Harry S. Truman's reminiscences entitled "Plain Speaking."