

A Bid to Bring Back Nixon

By Michael Grieg

A San Francisco investor and his Southern California business friends are quietly attempting to build a new political base here for former President Nixon, it was learned yesterday.

Bayeux Baker, who describes himself as "an investor and retired State Department staff officer," said that he and "at least 150 influential people throughout California" are trying to get Mr. Nixon or Governor Ronald Reagan to head a third party in 1976.

The first "feeler" here, the 49-year-old businessman said, it being sparked by a public notice appearing in *The Chronicle* classified ads.

"To honor the former president on the 200th birthday of the Republic," the notice last Monday said, "let's turn loose the bull moose."

Baker calls his group "The Seventy Sixin' with Nixon Committee" and likens the effort to the drive by supporters of Theodore Roosevelt who got their candidate to run for a third term as President in 1912 on the Progressive — or Bull Moose — ticket.

Roosevelt, who subsequently lost the election to Woodrow Wilson, gave the party its Bull Moose identification when he was asked by a reporter how he felt. "I feel as strong as a bull moose," he said.

Baker said he was hopeful that Mr. Nixon, now recovering from phlebitis in San Clemente, would be able to say the same thing before long. "We're fully hopeful he can take an active political role," he said.

The former State Department staffer, who served in



BAYEUX BAKER
Third party hopes

Paris, Egypt and Vietnam before Mr. Nixon became President, said his group has "been in touch with people around the former President" but not with the former President directly.

Baker acknowledged the fact that under a Constitutional Amendment, since Franklin Roosevelt's time "no person shall be elected to the office of the Presidency more than twice."

There was some legal question, however, whether it applied to Mr. Nixon since he had served less than half of his second term, Baker contended.

"In any case, Mr. Nixon could certainly be the very active leader of a new third party and could certainly run for some other important office," he said.

"From the response all around, including newspaper ads we've run in Southern California newspapers, we plan to continue," he added.

He said it was "premature" to divulge the names of the drive's initial supporters but that the group was already working closely with the National Committee for Fairness to the Presidency, the pro-Nixon organization formed by Rabbi Baruch Koff.

The group's first order of business, Baker said, is to hold a bicentennial celebration on July 4, 1976, "to honor Mr. Nixon and serve as a vehicle for him to reply to his critics."

The celebration would also bring together those interested in backing a third political party that would enable Mr. Nixon to run himself or to support others, he said.

Baker, a 1947 Stanford graduate who also attended the University of California in Santa Barbara as a political science graduate student, disclaimed any connection with the John Birch Society.

"We don't consider this a right-wing effort," said the well-dressed investor who goes in for blue blazers and pin-striped shirts.

Baker, who started as a lowly U.S. Embassy messenger in Paris in 1954 and left government service in 1962 as a State Department property control officer in Saigon, said he only became a Nixon supporter after "the President demonstrated his foreign affairs prowess."

The Santa Barbara-born businessman, who lives here at 1922 Larkin Street, said he has never registered in any political party.

The mailing address for his committee for Nixon is P.O. Box 11219, San Francisco, 94101.