

JAN 30 1975

## Republican Leaders Doubt That Nixon Can Aid Party Now

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (AP)

— Representative John J.

Rhodes of Arizona, the House minority leader, said today that former President Richard M. Nixon might be effective in helping the Republican party at some future date—"but not now."

Other Republicans, speaking both on and off the record, expressed doubt about the value of any assistance in the foreseeable future from Mr. Nixon, who resigned last August because of the Watergate scandal.

Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, said yesterday that Mr. Nixon was looking forward to helping the Republican party when he regains his health.

Senator Goldwater told reporters that he had lunch last Thursday with the former President in San Clemente, Calif.

Mr. Goldwater also told his fellow Republican Senators at a luncheon yesterday Tuesday that Mr. Nixon had expressed interest in being a spokesman and fund raiser for the Republican party.

Mr. Rhodes, at a news conference, was asked about Senator Goldwater's comment and replied, "this present time, I don't think such an effort by

the former President would be as productive as it might be later." "Time changes and heals," he said. "I think that later the former President might be effective in the role he suggests—but not now."

The Senate minority whip, Senator Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, said "As a realistic politician, it is difficult to see any role that he could play in the immediate future.

"Perhaps at some point, there may be a different answer," Senator Griffin added.

One Republican Senator who would not be identified said: "There was silence when he [Goldwater] said that."