

Rich and famous friends honor Nixon

at party

PALM DESERT — Wealthy and famous friends of Richard Nixon gathered yesterday to honor the former President at a party at a millionaire's estate in this playground of the wealthy.

It was the first big affair Nixon has attended since he quit the presidency in dis-

grace.

Nixon and his wife, Pat, drove Wednesday to the desert home of publisher Walter Annenberg, former ambassador to Great Britain.

"I'm just having a few old friends to a very quiet, private dinner," said Annen-

berg. "They're old, intimate friends of mine and the former President.

"Mr. Nixon is my weekend guest," he said. "He is resting and enjoying the sunshine. I urged him to hit a few golf balls, which he did, but he hasn't tried to play any golf.

Annenberg said the dinner was not in Nixon's honor and that some of the guests had been invited several months ago.

Among those invited were Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan and his wife, the fortune heir Leonard Firestone and Leonard Swearingen, chairman of the board of Standard Oil of Indiana.

It was the former President's first long trip since undergoing phlebitis surgery Oct. 29.