

# The Nixons' Sentimental Evening

## Palm Desert

Richard Nixon spent a sentimental evening with friends of wealth and fame at the estate of millionaire publisher Walter Annenberg before returning yesterday to the seclusion of his seaside villa in San Clemente.

Comedian Bob Hope, a guest at a dinner party Saturday at Annenberg's walled

and guarded estate, said the former President looked "as if he needed a lot of rest."

Mr. Nixon and his wife drove the 150 miles from their home in San Clemente last Wednesday to spend a few days with Annenberg on his 200-acre Riverside county estate. 19 FEB

"I hadn't seen the President since he left office,"

Hope said. "He looked to me as if he needed a lot of rest. Pat looked good and she seemed in better spirits than the President.

"We were all trying to make it as jovial and as lighthearted as possible for the President."

Mr. Nixon was notified here last week of the sentencing of his former top

aides, convicted in the Watergate coverup. He issued no statement.

The informal dinner party began about 8 p.m., when polished limousines entered the gates of the estate to discharge a Who's Who-type list of notables.

Guests included former

Back Page Col. 2

## From Page 1

Governor Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy, singer Frank Sinatra, Leonard Firestone, heir to the tire manufacture fortune and his wife; John Swearingen, chairman of the board of Standard Oil of Indiana; Los Angeles civic leader Willard Keith; Bob and Delores Hope, and Freeman Godsen, the one-time Amos of "Amos and Andy."

Hope, usually buoyant himself, seemed a bit downcast by the former President's condition.

"The President was only in fair spirits," Hope said. "He wasn't as lighthearted as I've known him to be in the past. And that was rather sad for me."

Hope said the party was over by 11:20 p.m. Saturday. Dinner began with caviar and the main course was tenderloin beef, with French lima beans.

The comedian said he had put on a black tie and was prepared to go when his wife reminded him it was informal and he changed to informal attire.

During the course of the dinner, Annenberg, former ambassador to Great Britain

during Mr. Nixon's administration, toasted the former President and Mr. Nixon then offered a toast to Annenberg and his friends with imported champagne.

"It was a very sentimental evening," Hope said. "Considering everything, the circumstances and all, I think everything went pretty well considering it was the President's first experience socially since he left the White House."

He said he thinks it will be a long time before Mr. Nixon regains his old vigor and personal poise.

Former Vice President Spiro Agnew was reportedly a weekend guest at Sinatra's desert home, but was apparently not invited to the dinner.

United Press