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XONCOMN ON HIS PRESIDENC

Air of Bluntness, Candor and Hard Work Is Described in Affidavit Seeking Taxes

WASHINGTON, July 6 (UPI)
—Richard M. Nixon saw his Presidency not as a one-man show, but as one in which he counted on "free-wheeling, candid and often blunt or critical advice" from others, according to an affidavit filed last week in Federal Court. 30 July The 22-page affidavit was filed in United States district court in support of his suit to retrieve his tapes and documents that Government by law still holds—a law he asserts is an unconstitutional violation of a President's right to privacy. Speaking of advice he received on foreign policy, Mr. Nixon's affidavit said: "I could not have instituted dramatic changes in foreign policy, had I received advice that was anything but unvarnished. The opening to China, our new re-

I received advice that was anything but unvarnished. The opening to China, our new relationship with Russia and new initiatives to dampen the powder keg in the Middle East are but a few of the available examples."

Mr. Nixon, often accused of conducting an "imperial presidency" isolated from reality and shielded even from members of his own Cabinet, sketched a far different picture of life inside his White House.

The portrait of Mr. Nixon's working style was apparently aimed at emphasizing the highly personal nature of many tapes and documents Mr. Nixon asserts are his and his alone.

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It is a picture of a man who often worked into the early morning hours on drafts of speeches, wrote letters in longhand to the families of Vietnam casualties, and sought outside advice as he weighed legislative and military decisions.

Confidentiality Stressed

It is a picture of a man so busy busy his daughters would sometimes tuck away notes for him to nead when he found time.

In support of his request for

In support of his request for the tapes and documents, Mr. Nixon said in the affidavit:

"It is my opinion that the confidentiality of a constitutional officeholder's communications with the members of his staff, and between him and other individuals must be preserved in order to assure the type of free-wheeling, candid and often blunt or critical advice that is so vital to the performance of his office.

Mr. Nixon, now in seclusion in San Clemente, Calif., told of preserving in one form or or

another—for what he had assumed would be his own private use later—almost all of the materials that came into the White House.

He told of his State of the Union messages: "I prepared many of them personally, often working alone into the early hours of the morning writing and rewriting in longhand."

He told of the letters he wrote to the families of Vietnam casualties: "These letters, of course, were of little import to the nation or to anyone expet myself and the recipient. Often such letters were written in my own hand."

He told of personal letters: to the widows of Chief Justice Earl Warren and former President Lyndon B. Johnson; to Alice Roosevelt Longworth, daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt; and to "then Congressman Gerald R. Ford."

Frequently throughout the affidavit, Mr. Nixon returned to his quest for a range of opinion. In deciding whether to veto a bill, he said, "I always desired that such recommendations represent the individual's or author's candid and forthright opinion."

He also said that he discussed legislation and military action with his aides, other officials, members of Congress, representatives of organiza-

action with his aides, other officials, members of Congress, representatives of organiza-tions and private citizens in meetings in the Oval Office or his hideway in the Executive Office Building.

"I found that such discussions were frequently more candid and consequently more valuable to me in my decisionmaking than those which came to me in other forms," Mr. Nixon said

Bluntness Reported Sought

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He said he sought their
"blunt assessments" of the
foreign, domestic and political
effects of pending decisions.
"I can recall an instance in
which the ranking minority
member of a House Committee
informed me about a personal
problem involving the committee chairman," Mr. Nixon said,
without identifying either person. "It was important that I
be aware of this in order to be
in a position to determine what

be aware of this in order to be in a position to determine what course of action to take on particular legislation."

He kept an "exceedingly private" personal diary, recorded on a dictating machine at the end of each day: "At times I everyeased my frustrations my expressed my frustrations, my feelings of exhilaration or other emotions experienced throughout the day."

There sometimes were more intimate memos at day's end.
"Because of the long hours that I was required to spend away," Mr. Nixon said, "my daughters adopted the practice of leaving personal notes at my office or in my residence so that at the end of the day, if they were not around. I would I would in the some that a second in the second they were not around, I would have at least a moment or two to learn what they had been doing or what their feelings or reactions were to my own activities."