

Face the Nation, CBS, 10 Aug 75
intv of Gerald L. Warren
transcribed from tape
(tape not kept)

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In the course of the intv it was mentioned that Warren had visited Nixon "in the last week or so," in California.

Excerpts:

- Q. Do you think that [Nixon] should in any way return to public life now?
- A. Yes, I do. I think Richard Nixon is a national asset, regardless of the stigma of Watergate, which will remain on his administration for a long time. I think he has strong views in the area of domestic affairs, foreign affairs, and I think he should be heard. I don't think he should run for elective office. I don't think he should - as someone suggested - become our ambassador to China. But I do think he should be active again.
- Q. How would he do that? For instance, would you like to see him speak at the next Republican convention?
- A. No, I would not like that, and I don't think you [he?] should predict that. I have a very strong feeling that Richard Nixon will stay out of the 1976 ---
- Q. Let me invite your comment, your suggestion. How can he serve the country, given all the -- I mean, you don't want him to speak at the convention, for an obvious reason; you don't want him to be an ambassador, for an obvious reason -- what could he possibly do?
- A. Well, let me take a little time if I may, George. I think that he's very wise not to involve himself in the 1976 campaign, and he will not. I think after that, and after his book comes out, in 1977, some time during that year, I think he should travel, I think he should speak out on the national issues. I think a former president ---
- Q. Under whose auspices?
- A. His own. He is a former president of the United States. I think he should accept some of the invitations which I know he's been receiving and will receive.
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Q. Let me take you back to your visit with Mr. Nixon, which you say you cannot go into detail about. Can you sketch generally for us how you found him, and what was the purpose of your visit with him?

A. Well, it was just to see a man that I served in the White House and who I admire very much. We chatted for about an hour and a half on all sorts of subjects. We talked about Washington, we talked about the White House, about politics, certainly, about foreign affairs. I found him to be in excellent spirits. I found him forceful in his questions, perceptive in his questions and his comments. I found him feeling well and looking well. He is under the constant care of a doctor, naturally, because of his phlebitis, and will be taking anti-coagulants probably for the rest of his life, so he's going to have to watch it. But he looks good.

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Q. What is his relationship with Gerald Ford? Do the two of them communicate in any way nowadays?

A. Well, I think you're aware of the phone calls that they have. I'm not aware of any recent communication between the two. Former President Nixon was quite alert to some of the things going on in this town. He keeps up very well, but not necessarily with the President. I took him a message from President Ford when I went there.

Q. Could you tell us the content of the --

A. Good wishes, and that sort of thing.

Q. Jerry, why don't you want to talk about it in any more detail, about your visit with Mr. Nixon?

A. Because it was a friendly visit, Gene. It was a visit between two people who perhaps didn't get to know each other as well as they should have during the time of his presidency, and perhaps two people who were trying to make up for lost time.

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Interviewers:

Robert Pierpoint, CBS News White House correspondent
Eugene V. Risher, WX correspondent, Cox newspapers
George Herman, CBS News correspondent